CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Over 100 voices call for restored India-Pakistan ties

Joint appeal seeks dialogue, diplomacy and stronger people-to-people engagement between neighbouring nations immediately

NEW DELHI

More than 100 prominent politicians, former diplomats and civil society representatives from India and Pakistan have jointly appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to revive diplomatic engagement and restore normal bilateral relations.

The open letter, signed by 116 individuals—61 from India and 55 from Pakistan—calls for sustained dialogue, restoration of diplomatic ties, revival of trade and transport links, and expanded people-to-people exchanges.

Among the signatories are Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, former RAW chief A. S. Dulat, Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha, former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Coordinated by OP Shah, chairman of the Centre for Peace and Progress, the letter urges both governments to reinstate high commissioners, resume normal visa services and restart comprehensive bilateral dialogue covering all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

The signatories also called for reopening trade routes, restoring transport services such as the Delhi-Lahore bus, Samjhauta Express and Thar Express, reopening the Attari-Wagah border for trade, and expanding cultural, academic and business exchanges.

The appeal further seeks reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and easier access to Sharada Peeth for pilgrims.

Major recommendations

The signatories urged both governments to restore full diplomatic relations by reinstating high commissioners, reopening trade and transport links, reviving comprehensive bilateral dialogue and easing visa restrictions. They also sought greater cultural, educational and business exchanges, reopening of cross-border transport services, and measures that promote peace and cooperation, arguing that continued hostility limits opportunities for nearly two billion people across South Asia.

> **The future of South Asia should be shaped not by division and conflict, but by peace, prosperity and shared progress.**
> —Joint appeal

PEACE APPEAL AT A GLANCE

Total signatories: 116
From India: 61
From Pakistan: 55
Appeal to: PM Narendra Modi & PM Shehbaz Sharif
Key demands: Dialogue, trade, visas, transport, diplomatic ties

Principled professionals can uphold fearless journalism: CM

BENGALURU

Stressing that fearless journalism has become increasingly challenging in the present media landscape, Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said only journalists who uphold professional ethics and principles can truly serve society.

Addressing the Press Day celebrations organised by the Karnataka Media Academy and the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association at Gandhi Bhavan, Shivakumar urged media professionals to remain committed to truth, integrity and public interest while resisting the spread of fake news.

He said journalism must free itself from misinformation, noting that inaccurate reporting not only damages individuals but also erodes public trust in the profession.

Sharing a recent experience, the Chief Minister said he had visited a hospital for a routine health check-up earlier in the day, but some television channels falsely reported that he had been admitted.

"I had gone to the hospital for a routine health check-up. But some TV channels broadcast that I had been admitted to the hospital. This is completely false news," he said.

Recalling another incident during the Mekedatu Padayatra, Shivakumar said visuals of him appearing exhausted were deliberately misrepresented to suggest he was walking under the influence of alcohol.

"If I make a mistake, expose it. But don't publish or broadcast false news. Until a news item is published, it belongs to the journalist. After publication, it becomes the property of society. Therefore, every news item must contain truth and honesty," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the legacy of great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, who practised journalism with integrity and elevated the profession's stature. He urged today's journalists to preserve that tradition by adhering to ethical standards.

> **If I make a mistake, expose it. But don't publish or broadcast false news. Every news item must contain truth and honesty.**
> —D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Press Day 2026

Event: Press Day celebrations
Venue: Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru
Organisers: Karnataka Media Academy & Karnataka Working Journalists' Association
Chief Message: Ethical journalism is essential for fearless reporting
Focus: Combating fake news and protecting public trust

CM calls for restoring public trust in journalism

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said journalism carries a responsibility that extends beyond reporting events, as every published story ultimately becomes part of the public domain. He urged journalists to verify facts thoroughly before publication and avoid sensationalism driven by misinformation. Emphasising that the credibility of the media depends on truth and ethical conduct, he said society benefits when journalists follow professional principles, conscience and integrity. He also recalled the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to journalism, urging the media fraternity to uphold that legacy by ensuring accuracy, fairness and accountability in every report.

Deputy Chief Minister assures drought preparedness amid rainfall deficit and growing water concerns statewide

₹5 cr allocated to every district for drinking water supply: DCM

BELAGAVI

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday announced that the state government has allocated ₹5 crore to every district to ensure adequate drinking water supply amid below-normal rainfall and growing concerns over drought-like conditions.

Addressing a press conference in Belagavi, Parameshwara said the region was experiencing a rainfall deficit, resulting in falling groundwater levels and raising the possibility of drinking water shortages if the monsoon does not improve.

He said the government has prepared a comprehensive action plan, which will be implemented by Deputy Commissioners to tackle water scarcity and monitor crop losses.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government would continue reviewing the situation and initiate timely measures to minimise hardships for the public.

On revenue administration, he said programmes such as Pouthi Khata, distribution of title deeds, Akar Bandh and declaration of revenue villages would be accelerated for completion within a fixed timeline.

Parameshwara also said district authorities have been instructed to survey and clear encroachments on properties belonging to Category A, B and C temples. He added that temple funds should be utilised only with proper approval and that standard operating procedures would be introduced to ensure transparency.

Highlighting sports development, he said the government would improve sports infrastructure in schools and colleges lacking adequate facilities and continue extending support to athletes. He also announced 3% reservation in Home Department recruitment and 2% reservation in recruitment to other government departments for sportspersons.

Key announcements

- ₹5 crore allocated to each district for drinking water.
- Action plan to tackle water scarcity.
- Temple encroachments to be surveyed and cleared.
- Sports infrastructure to be strengthened.
- Reservation: 3% in Home Department, 2% in other departments for sportspersons.

Drought declaration only after assessment

Parameshwara said the government has not yet discussed declaring any district or taluk drought-hit. He explained that such a decision would be based on established parameters, including rainfall deficiency, crop damage and groundwater availability. He also clarified that the government is not currently considering cloud seeding .

TN moves SC against Madras HC's blanket cow slaughter ban

NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court's order imposing a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows and calves across the state, arguing that the ruling is inconsistent with existing state law.

In its petition, the state sought to set aside the High Court's May 27 order, which directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to ensure that no cow or calf was slaughtered anywhere in Tamil Nadu, either on the eve of Bakrid or on any other day.

The High Court had relied on a 1976 judgment that emphasised the importance of prohibiting cow slaughter to promote milk production and strengthen the rural economy.

However, the Tamil Nadu government contended that the order overlooks the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958, which permits the slaughter of cows above 10 years of age that are certified by a competent authority as unfit for work or breeding.

Maha Kumbh rush allegedly enabled Ram temple donation fund siphoning

LUCKNOW

Investigators probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya have found that the largest diversion of funds allegedly occurred during the Maha Kumbh pilgrimage, when an unprecedented influx of devotees led to a sharp rise in cash offerings.

According to sources, the massive crowds visiting the temple during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj created conditions that allegedly allowed the accused to siphon off significant amounts from the donation collections. While investigators believe the misappropriation had been occurring for several months, the highest volume of alleged embezzlement coincided with the pilgrimage period.

The probe has identified Luvkush Mishra and his brother-in-law, Anukalp Mishra, as the two accused who allegedly diverted the largest share of the temple funds. Both are among the eight individuals arrested in the case and are currently in judicial custody.

Investigators have also traced immovable assets allegedly acquired by the duo. Officials are expected to seek assistance from the Income Tax Department and other agencies to establish the money trail and determine whether the alleged proceeds were invested in properties or other assets.

Earlier searches at Luvkush Mishra's residence in Meenapur Thakuran Fagauli village in Ayodhya reportedly led to the recovery of around ₹12 lakh and several documents. Mishra, who was responsible for counting cash offerings at the temple, had previously worked as a car mechanic before joining the temple trust.

Police sources further claimed that Anukalp Mishra owns a farmhouse and a luxury residence in Ayodhya. Authorities are continuing financial investigations to identify additional assets and possible beneficiaries linked to the alleged fraud.

HARIPRASAD CLAIMS RAM MADHAV MET PAK OFFICIALS

BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president B K Hariprasad on Wednesday alleged that RSS leader Ram Madhav held four "secret" meetings with Pakistani officials, including a former major-general of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and demanded an explanation over the alleged interactions.

Addressing a meeting of the Congress campaign committee ahead of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) civic polls, Hariprasad claimed Madhav met Pakistani representatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and London, citing media reports. He questioned whether Madhav had any official authorisation to engage in such meetings.

However, Ram Madhav has already rejected the allegations. In a statement issued earlier, he clarified that he had attended only a session of the South Asia Dialogue organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Colombo and did not participate in any Track-2 dialogue with Pakistan.

KHAMENEI FUNERAL INVITE

Iran invites Kharge, Khurshid, Khera for Khamenei funeral

NEW DELHI

Iran has invited Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and Congress leader Pawan Khera to attend the funeral and burial ceremonies of late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sources said on Wednesday.

The invitation comes as Tehran prepares to host a series of official mourning and burial events from July 3 to July 9, with delegations from several countries expected to participate.

According to reports, Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita are likely to lead the Indian delegation. However, the final composition of the delegation is yet to be announced.

The development follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent telephone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which the Iranian leader extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the ceremonies. However, Modi is understood to be unavailable due to his scheduled visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand between July 6 and 11.

Diplomatic sources said the ceremonies will be held in Tehran and the holy city of Qom, while Khamenei will be laid to rest in Mashhad, one of Iran's most significant pilgrimage centres. Officials said the choice of Mashhad as the burial site reflects the stature accorded to Khamenei following his assassination.

Ceremonies: July 3–9
Likely Indian delegation leaders: Syed Ata Hasnain, Pabitra Margherita
Burial venue: Mashhad, Iran
Ceremonial venues: Tehran and Qom
Invited Congress leaders: Mallikarjun Kharge, Salman Khurshid, Pawan Khera

Modi unlikely to attend

PM Modi was invited by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during a recent phone conversation to attend the funeral ceremonies. However, he is unlikely to travel to Iran due to previously scheduled visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand from July 6 to 11. The Indian delegation is therefore expected to be led by other senior representatives, though the government is yet to announce the final list of participants.

QUICK READ

VTU results out in 5 mins after 6th semester exam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has aced its own game of announcing results immediately after the completion of the examinations. It improved on its record by announcing the results of the sixth semester engineering exam just five minutes after the exam ended.A total of 60,856 students appeared for the BE and BTech sixth semester exams. The exam concluded at 5.30pm Tuesday, and the results were announ ced at 5.35 pm. Compared to previo us yea rs, the entire evaluation process of the rest of the papers was comple ted 21 days earlier. A total of 76. 84 percent pas s per centage was reco rded. The VTU Vice- Chancellor, Prof S Vidyashankar, said, sudents wait eagerly for their results. Hence, we de cided to announce the m as quickly as possible. With proper pre paration, we are able to release the results immediately.

Fire mishaps: GBA orders fire-safety audit in Chickpet

CH NEWS, BENGALURU With Chickpet remaining vulnerable to fire accidents due to its dense commercial activity and narrow lanes, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) ordered an immediate fire-safety audit of buildings in the central Bengaluru locality to assess firefighting systems, emergency exits and overall emergency preparedness. Chairing a review meeting, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to constitute a special team of town planners to conduct a comprehensive survey of all buildings in Chickpet division. The team has been asked to identify unauthorised buildings, issue notices to owners and initiate action.

APS Educational Institutions gets new office- bearers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU New office bearers have been elected to APS Educational Institution, one of the oldest educational institutions in the city, which runs a total of 14 educational institutions. Vishnu Bharat Alampalli (President), IS Prasad and RV Vijay Bhaskar (Vice-Presidents), A Prakash (General Secretary), KS Akhilesh Babu (Treasurer), P Krishnaswamy and A Ram Prasad (Joint Secretaries), AP Acharya, AR Acharya and A Muralidhar (Permanent Members), TV Prabhu, C Nagaraj, HV Gautama, KP Narasimha Murthy, Rajiv, Mohan Dev Alva, Vijayanand, Manjunath, Kishore Kumar and Manjula Bindu Madhava Rao have been elected as the elected trustees, the organization said in a statement.

Agnikul-ICEYE join hands to build, launch SAR satellites from India

The partnership aims to combine ICEYE's expertise in SAR satellite technology and planned satellite manufacturing capabilities in India with Agnikul's indigenous responsive launch systems.

BENGALURU

Indian private space startup Agnikul Cosmos on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Finnish satellite operator ICEYE to explore the development of an end-to-end sovereign Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) earth observation capability in India, marking a step towards strengthening the country's indigenous space-based intelligence infrastructure.

The partnership aims to combine ICEYE's expertise in SAR satellite technology and planned satellite manufacturing capabilities in India with Agnikul's indigenous responsive launch systems.

The companies plan to explore a model where satellites are manufactured in India and launched aboard Agnikul's rockets, reducing dependence on overseas launch schedules while supporting national security, disaster management and critical infrastructure monitoring.

Reducing reliance on foreign launch timelines

"Previously, building and launching a satellite system privately in India mostly meant piecing together foreign technology and waiting on timelines that we as a nation did not control," said Srinath Ravichandran, co-founder and chief executive officer of Agnikul Cosmos.

"Applications such as disaster response, sensitive area monitoring and security are national priorities, and India deserves sovereign capabilities to support them," he added.

The companies also intend to develop a repeatable satellite-to-launch model capable of supporting long-term deployment programmes in India as well as international markets.

"What makes this collaboration particularly exciting is that it goes beyond a single mission," said Moin SPM, co-founder and chief operating officer of Agnikul Cosmos. "By combining manufacturing, launch and operational capabilities under one ecosystem, we can create a repeatable model that can support long-term deployment programmes for customers in India and around the world."

Focus on sovereign space capabilities

ICEYE, which operates the world's largest SAR satellite constellation, said India is emerging as an important market for sovereign intelligence capabilities.

"India is an important market for us as demand for sovereign intelligence capabilities continues to grow globally. Partnerships built around speed, reliability and long-term execution are becoming increasingly important in these times and this is what we seek to build with Agnikul," said Rafał Modrzewski, co-founder and CEO of ICEYE.

The Finnish company has launched more than 70 SAR satellites and has delivered sovereign satellite constellations to seven European governments, including Poland, Sweden and Germany. It views India as a potential Asia-Pacific manufacturing hub capable of producing satellites for both domestic programmes and export markets.

For Agnikul, the partnership expands its portfolio of international collaborations across India, the Middle East and Australia. The announcement was made at BharatInnovates in Nice, France, where the Chennai-based startup showcased its reusable launch vehicle technology. Agnikul completed its maiden launch in 2024 from India's first private launchpad, using its in-house developed single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine.

Core features of the partnership

- **END-TO-END EXECUTION**: It combines ICEYE's expertise in radar satellite technology with Agnikul's 3D-printed rocket engines and responsive launch services.
- **MANUFACTURING HUB**: ICEYE is exploring setting up satellite manufacturing facilities in India, establishing the country as a major base for Asia-Pacific operations.
- **ICEYE CONSTELLATION**: ICEYE operates the world's largest commercial SAR constellation with more than 70 satellites in orbit, and has delivered sovereign constellations to several governments.
- **AGNIKUL'S ROLE**: Agnikul Cosmos, which is incubated at IIT Madras, will use its indigenous launch vehicle to put the jointly built satellites into orbit from India's private launch pads.

Tahsildar launches SIR in Hoskote

BENGALURU

Tahsildar and Assistant Returning Officer TS Sheetal launched Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls of Hoskote Assembly constituency.

Speaking on the occasion of launching the drive at International veteran sportsperson and Yoga practitioner K Manjunath at Hoskote, she said, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been assigned the task of collecting the required information from voters by visiting them personally.

The constituency has 293 Polling stations and 293 BLOs, 6 Nodal Officers have been appointed for this purpose. The work will be carried out till July 19 and final draft voters list will be published by October. The voters are required to provide the information required and verify the details in the enumeration form. Opportunity has been provided to correct the details including mobile number, change of photo. The family members must fill out the application within seven days and hand over the same to BLOs. When the BLOs visit the houses, the elders present can sign the forms on behalf of everyone, she said.

As per the instructions of Election Commission, the BLOs have been asked to carry out the work along with their normal work. If they find any problems, they can bring it to the notice of Nodal Officers, she said.

Man steals iPhone of accident victim, siphons off Rs 3.5L

BENGALURU

A Good Samaritan act turned out to be an abominable fraud when a man, pretending to help a 36-year-old private firm employee injured in a road accident, stole the latter's iPhone and then used it to siphon off over Rs 3.5 lakh from his bank account.

According to a complaint filed by Sachin Prasad, a resident of Yelahanka New Town, he met with an accident near Allalasandra in Yelahanka on June 19 while driving his car. While I was driving, a pedestrian suddenly crossed my path. I instinctively swerved to save him, but lost control and rammed the car into the road divider, he told.

The car's airbags were deployed but Prasad sustained a fracture to one of his hands. Minutes later, a few passers-by rushed to help him. I remember that about four people came to help me while I was struggling to call an ambulance.

One of them spoke to me and, noticing that I was finding it difficult to make the call, asked for my iPhone, he said. Little did Prasad know that the helping hand would turn out to be a thief's.

The man moved a short distance away on the pretext of calling an ambulance. Meanwhile, more people gathered at the accident spot, and the man fled with the phone.

I kept telling people that someone had taken away my phone, but they were focused on helping me.

I was rushed to a nearby hospital, where I was admitted, Prasad said. After being discharged on June 24, Prasad obtained a replacement sim card and soon began receiving SMS alerts about unauthorised transactions from his bank account.

The thief had removed the sim card from the iPhone and inserted it into an Android phone.

He created a UPI ID and activated UPI Lite linked to Prasad's Bank of Baroda account. Between June 20 and 25, he transferred Rs 3,51,600 to multiple bank accounts.

Realising the cyberfraud, Prasad immediately blocked his bank account and reported the fraud to cyber helpline 1930. Later, he visited the bank and complained about the transactions.

The bank staff told me they were looking into the issue, but they haven't given me any explanation about how they allowed someone to create a new UPI ID and transfer the funds.

My number was linked to two bank accounts, one is with Bank of Baroda and another with ICICI Bank.

The miscreant tried to siphon off money from the ICICI account too, but he was unable to do it, Prasad said.

When one bank takes preventive measures such as double authentication soon after a new UPI ID is created, why other banks don't also do the same, he asked.

A senior officer said a case has been registered at north-east cybercrime police station, and Rs 2 lakh has been frozen in the fraudster's accounts.

Type effort costs traveller Rs 7,000

BENGALURU

A simple typing error while booking a train ticket turned into a costly lesson for an IT professional, who was fined more than Rs 7,000 and treated as a ticketless traveller despite carrying a valid reservation and identity proof.

After quitting his job in Bengaluru, 24-year-old Ramakant M was preparing to return to his hometown, Nagpur, Maharashtra, on June 23. Around 8pm, he boarded Train 22691 KSR Bengaluru–Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express.

The journey appeared routine until the Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) arrived to verify tickets. Seated in his reserved second AC berth, Ramakant showed his e-ticket on his phone. What followed left him stunned."When I displayed the ticket, the TTE asked me to come with him to the first AC coach.

Another TTE joined us there. They told me my ticket was invalid and that I might have to pay a penalty amounting to twice the fare," Ramakant recalled.According to him, the officials pointed out that his age had been entered as 1 instead of 24 while booking the ticket. Initially, I thought there was some problem with their system. But when I checked the ticket myself, I realised it was a typing error from my end," he said. Ramakant said he immediately produced his ID proof to establish his age and identity.

B'luru IT firm daycare centre staff under scanner for abuse

BENGALURU

Police have booked five women employed at a daycare centre inside an IT company campus in Bengaluru after videos purportedly showing toddlers being abused surfaced, triggering an investigation into allegations of physical assault and cruelty.

The alleged incidents took place at a childcare facility in Brookefield, where employees of the IT company leave their young children while they are at work, police said on Wednesday.

The matter surfaced on Monday after videos purportedly showing the abuse were circulated on WhatsApp and reported to the Child Helpline, prompting police action.According to police, the footage allegedly shows children crying while being subjected to physical abuse and intimidation by the caregivers.

Toddlers put inside washing machine, water sprayed into mouths with toilet jet, 5 staffers booked

Investigators said the videos purportedly show the women threatening toddlers aged between two and three years whenever they cried or created a disturbance. According to the complaint, the caregivers allegedly placed children inside a front-loading washing machine, made them sit on a western-style toilet, sprayed water into their mouths using a toilet jet spray, locked them inside bathrooms and threatened them into remaining silent.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case against the five women under relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

"The accused women are being questioned, and we are also verifying the authenticity of the videos and trying to establish when the incidents occurred and whether more children were subjected to similar abuse, he said. No arrests have been made so far, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Development will be given high priority: MLA

BENGALURU

Along with women empowerment, MLA ST Somashekhar said that development will be given high priority by organizing sports and religious activities for the youth of the constituency.

He was speaking at the prize distribution ceremony for the women who participated in the Rangoli competition organized as part of Women's Day celebrations in Talaghattapur, Kengeri, Kengeri Kote and Byadarahalli wards at Modi Ground in Kommagatta of Yeshwantpur assembly constituency.

Somashekhar said that he has never celebrated his birthday in his political life.

He said that he considers every day of development of the constituency, including women's programmes, religious activities, festivals, cricket tournaments for youth, kabaddi, volleyball, wrestling, Dasara celebrations, Sankranti celebrations, as well as every day of development of the constituency as his birthday and that he has been satisfied in working as a servant according to the expectations of the people of the constituency.

Youth leader Nishant Somashekar said that Yeshwantpur constituency MLA ST Somashekar is not someone who comes once in 5 years, but he has an attitude of responding to the hardships and happiness of the people of the constituency by providing financial assistance to students who have scored the highest marks in the SSLC and PUC annual examinations to supplement the educational progress of the children of wage laborers and emphasizing the construction of maternity hospitals, dialysis centers, and government college buildings for women's health.

PATHS NOT REALLY FOR WALKING

When pedestrians pushed off Bengaluru footpaths!

BENGALURU

Imagine a footpath so unusable that almost everyone chooses to walk beside speeding buses instead. Welcome to Dinnur Main Road, one of RT Nagar's busiest neighbourhood connectors.

Nearly 90% of pedestrians walking on the busy carriageway despite the presence of footpaths. Encroachments, garbage, parked vehicles, and broken infrastructure have reduced footpaths to a strip here, barely any space, barely any walkers.

Instead of doing a fine balancing act on footpaths, citizens throw themselves in harm's way by walking on the extreme edge of the road caressing the kerb, with the constant buzz of traffic for company.

The corridor connects RT Nagar with Sultanpalya and several surrounding neighbourhoods, carrying a steady stream of BMTC buses, school buses, cars, and two-wheelers through the day. Hundreds of residents, students, and shop-

pers use the stretch daily, yet pedestrians are left with little choice but to share the road with moving traffic.

Large sections of the footpath have been taken over by fruit vendors, cobbler kiosks, temporary stalls, banners, and commercial spill over.

In several places, shopkeepers have parked vehicles directly on the pavement, leaving virtually no room for people to walk. Garbage heaps make matters worse. Waste, discarded furniture, dry tree trunks, and branches occupy entire sections of the footpath, forcing pedestrians onto the carriageway.Continuity is another casualty.

The footpath frequently narrows, disappears, or is blocked by encroachments and overgrown vegetation, forcing pedestrians to keep switching between the pavement and the road.

At several locations, the usable width shrinks to less than a metre.The situation is especially worrying around schools. Several children walking on the road because footpaths were either blocked or unusable.

Dinnur Main Road is relatively narrow for the traffic it carries, and buses travelling in opposite direction often leave barely enough space along the edge of the carriageway.

For pedestrians pushed off the footpath, every walk becomes a risky negotiation with traffic. For a corridor lined with homes, schools, and businesses, the pedestrian infrastructure falls well short of what the neighbourhood demands. Footpaths have been in this condition for years without good remedy.

Senior citizens, like my mother, cannot use many of these footpaths because of the huge difference in levels. The roads, too, are in poor condition, and traffic is menacingly overwhelming: Sunitha Sonu, Kaval Byrasandra resident.

QUICK READ

Weather-Based Crop Insurance rolled out

Vijayapura
The Karnataka government has notified the implementation of the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for pomegranate, lemon, and grape crops in Vijayapura district for the 2026–27 Kharif season, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. said. Calling the scheme a flagship initiative, he urged farmers to enrol and benefit from the programme. He also warned that furnishing false information or enrolling without actual cultivation of the insured crops is illegal and will invite legal action. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to farmers to provide accurate details while registering and make effective use of the insurance scheme for crop protection.

VB-G Ram G Scheme launched in Vijayapura

Vijayapura
The VB-G Ram G Scheme, aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods, employment security and sustainable village development, has been launched in Vijayapura district. The programme guarantees 125 days of employment annually to rural households and focuses on creating durable assets, improving infrastructure and conserving natural resources. It includes Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans prepared through Gram Sabha participation and GIS-based planning. Works will cover water conservation, rural infrastructure, livelihood support units and climate-resilient projects. Officials said the scheme, funded jointly by the Centre and State in a 60:40 ratio, will improve incomes, reduce migration and enhance rural development outcomes.

Woman dies after alleged husband assault

Bidar
A 26-year-old woman, Sanjana of Honnikeri village in Bhalki taluk, died after allegedly being attacked by her husband with an iron rod while returning from a temple visit. Police said the incident occurred on June 25 near Jagadeshwari Mutt after the couple visited Mailar Mallanna Temple in Khanapur. The accused, Bhagwat Biradar of Bolegaon village, allegedly struck her on the head during a quarrel, leaving her critically injured. She was hospitalised but succumbed to her injuries. A case has been registered at Dhannur Police Station, and police are investigating the incident.

MLC Basanagouda inspects the govt hospital construction site

MLC Basanagouda Badarli inspected 200-bed hospital project, warned officials over substandard construction work quality.

SINDHANUR

Member of the Legislative Council Basanagouda Badarli inspected the ongoing construction of a 200-bed District Hospital building located behind the Taluk Government Hospital in Sindhanur and expressed strong dissatisfaction over the quality of work being carried out at the site.

During the inspection, the MLC alleged that the construction was not being executed as per the approved technical estimates and specifications. He claimed that there were multiple deviations from the prescribed standards, including the use of 20 mm aggregate instead of the required 40 mm material and

laying of 2-inch concrete thickness in place of the mandated 4-inch specification. He also pointed out that proper curing procedures had not been followed, which, according to him, could significantly weaken the structural strength of the building.

Basanagouda Badarli warned the officials concerned that any form of substandard construction would not be tolerated, especially in a critical public infrastructure project like a district hospital. He directed them to immediately rectify all identified defects and ensure that quality standards are strictly adhered to in all further construction activities.

The MLC further cautioned that if the deficiencies were not addressed promptly, he would recommend blacklisting the contractor responsible for the project. He also questioned the role of supervising authorities, including Taluk Health Officer Dr. Ayyanagouda and Government Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sureshgouda, for alleged lapses in monitoring the progress and quality of the work.

Emphasizing the importance of the project for public healthcare services in the region, Badarli instructed officials to ensure timely completion of the 200-bed hospital while maintaining the highest construction standards. He said that the facility is crucial for strengthening healthcare infrastructure in the district and should not be compromised under any circumstances.

Officials from the Public Works Department and local Congress leaders accompanied the MLC during the inspection and reviewed the ongoing construction work on site.

17.5 tonnes Anna Bhagya rice seized in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI

In a major crackdown on illegal diversion of public distribution system supplies, the Food and Civil Supplies Department, in coordination with the police, has busted a racket involved in transporting Anna Bhagya rice meant for beneficiaries to another state.

Officials intercepted a vehicle near Basaveshwar Circle in Kalaburagi town following specific intelligence inputs. A detailed inspection of the vehicle led to the seizure of 350 bags of rice, each weighing 50 kg, totaling 17.5 tonnes of PDS rice.

Authorities stated that the seized stock, which is part of the Anna Bhagya scheme intended for distribution to eligible beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System, is estimated to be worth ₹5.95 lakh. The illegal diversion of subsidised food grains is considered a serious violation of government regulations.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the consignment was being illegally transported towards Maharashtra via Jeratagi, Moratagi, Ghattargi, and Afzalpur routes. Officials believe the rice was being diverted through a network involved in the unauthorized trade of subsidised commodities meant for the poor.

The vehicle used for transporting the seized rice has also been confiscated by the authorities. Officials confirmed that strict action will be taken against those involved in the illegal operation, including further identification of individuals connected to the supply chain.

Authorities seized 17.5 tonnes of Anna Bhagya PDS rice worth ₹5.95 lakh and launched investigation into illegal interstate diversion network.

A case has been registered at Afzalpur Police Station, and a detailed investigation is currently underway to trace the source of diversion and identify the larger network behind the racket.

Authorities reiterated that strict monitoring is being carried out to prevent misuse of welfare scheme benefits and warned that any attempt to divert PDS commodities will be dealt with firmly under relevant laws.

They also urged public cooperation in reporting such illegal activities to ensure that welfare benefits reach genuine beneficiaries without diversion or corruption.

Activists staged silent protest opposing SIR electoral roll revision, demanding transparency and protection of voter rights.

Black armband protest held against SIR electoral rolls

YADGIR

Leaders of the District Federation of Karnataka Progressive Organisations and Secular Parties staged a silent protest wearing black armbands in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Yadgir, opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The protestors submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka through the Deputy Commissioner, urging the Election Commission to ensure transparency and democratic procedures in the revision process. They demanded clarification on four key issues raised by civil society groups regarding the ongoing electoral roll exercise.

They alleged that the Election Commission has not responded to concerns raised during a protest convention held at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, on June 20. According to them, objections expressed by writers, intellectuals, artists, theatre activists, and even the State Government have also not received any response, raising questions about accountability and transparency.

The demonstrators stated that democratic institutions must act responsibly and address the concerns of citizens without delay. They urged that the electoral roll revision process should be conducted in an open and transparent manner to maintain public trust in the system.

They also strongly demanded that no voter's name should be deleted from the electoral roll without providing an opportunity for the individual concerned to present their case. The group stressed that protecting voting rights is essential for safeguarding democracy.

Further, they called upon the Election Commission to ensure fairness in the revision process and implement safeguards to prevent wrongful deletion of eligible voters' names.

DSS District Convenor Mareppa Chatterkar addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of protecting democratic rights. Several leaders, including Sunil Kumar Rekson, Raghavendragouda Manasagal, Mohammed Saleem, Chandrakant Muneyappanor, Honnesh Doddamani, Bhimaraya Hosamani, Saidappa Korlu, Zakir Ahmed, Ghulam Jilani, and Mahiboob Saab, participated in the protest.

The silent demonstration concluded with a call for stronger transparency mechanisms and protection of voter rights.

Karnataka urged raise social pension income limit for widow

BIDAR

The Karnataka Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Committee has urged the State Government to withdraw its recent order fixing the annual income eligibility limit for widow, old-age, and disability pensions at ₹32,000, and instead increase it to ₹1.20 lakh.

A memorandum addressed to the Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister was submitted through the Bidar Tahsildar. The organisation argued that the current income ceiling is too low and is causing hardship to many deserving beneficiaries who depend on social security pensions for their daily survival.

According to the committee, widows, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities rely heavily on monthly pension assistance to meet essential needs, including food, healthcare, and medical expenses. They stated that in several cases, beneficiaries are also dependent on pensions to purchase life-saving medicines, making the scheme a crucial source of financial support.

The memorandum further alleged that the revised income criteria have created difficulties for many eligible individuals, forcing them to repeatedly visit government offices to clarify or rectify their pension status. This, they said, has increased both financial and emotional stress among vulnerable groups.

The committee has requested the government to revoke the existing income limit order and revise the eligibility threshold to ₹1.20 lakh per annum, ensuring wider coverage and uninterrupted benefits under social welfare schemes. It also emphasized the need to safeguard the rights of economically weaker sections.

In addition, the organisation demanded the establishment of a District Disabled Development Corporation in every district to strengthen welfare initiatives and improve implementation of schemes for persons with disabilities.

Key representatives present during the submission included State President of the Disabled Wing Mangale Markale, Kalyana Karnataka Division President Sangamesh Bhavidoddi, and several district-level office-bearers. They reiterated that timely policy revision is necessary to ensure dignity and financial security for the needy sections of society.

Special Electoral Roll Revision begins in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

The Special Summary Revision of the Electoral Roll, initiated by the Election Commission, commenced in Vijayapura district on Tuesday as part of the nationwide exercise to update and verify voter records.

As part of the process, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) visited the residence of Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dr. Anand K. and distributed enumeration forms, marking the formal beginning of the revision drive in the district.

Officials stated that the exercise aims to ensure accuracy in the electoral roll by adding eligible new voters, removing duplicate or ineligible entries, and updating existing voter details such as address corrections and other necessary modifications. Citizens are expected to cooperate by filling out and submitting the forms within the stipulated timeline.

Police destroy 13.845 kg seized ganja in NDPS cases

KALABURAGI

In a continued effort to curb illegal narcotics activity, the Kalaburagi District Police destroyed 13.845 kg of ganja seized in various cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The destruction process was carried out under the supervision of the District Drug Disposal Committee, following all required legal procedures and approvals from competent authorities and the court. Police officials confirmed that the exercise was conducted in a transparent manner in line with established norms for disposing of seized contraband.

According to police sources, the ganja was confiscated in connection with 16 separate NDPS cases registered at different police stations across Kalaburagi district. The seized narcotic substance had been kept as case property after completion of investigation procedures in each case.

The final disposal was carried out at the premises of the Orient Cement Plant, located under the jurisdiction of Chittapur Police Station. Officials said the facility was used for scientific destruction of the seized material to ensure safe and environmentally compliant disposal.

Police authorities stated that the department is maintaining a sustained and strict campaign against the illegal cultivation, transport, storage, and sale of narcotic drugs. They added that all seized substances are destroyed only after completing due legal formalities, including court permission and verification by competent committees, to ensure accountability at every stage.

Senior police officials were present during the destruction process, including District Superintendent of Police Addur Srinivasulu, Deputy Superintendents of Police Shankaragouda Patil and Sangamanath Hiremath, along with other officers and staff involved in NDPS enforcement duties.

Officials reiterated that strict action will continue against those involved in drug-related offences and that surveillance mechanisms across the district will be further strengthened to prevent narcotics activities.

MLA assures development works in Togaluru village

HULSOOR

MLA Sharanu Salagar has assured sincere efforts toward addressing basic civic issues and accelerating overall development works in Togaluru village. He was speaking after performing the foundation stone laying ceremony for a community hall near the Vittal Rukmini temple in Togaluru village under the KKRDB scheme, at an estimated cost of ₹25 lakh. The MLA said the construction of the long-pending community hall would help facilitate social, cultural, and public events in the village, and urged residents to make effective use of the facility once completed. He added that the government is committed to improving rural infrastructure, including drinking water supply, roads, drainage systems, and electricity connections. During the event, Sharanu Salagar also inspected the condition of the Mahadeva temple in the village and assured that sincere efforts would be made to allocate funds for its renovation and development. He stated that religious and cultural centres play an important role in strengthening community harmony and should be preserved and improved.

DEFUNCT BOREWELL ISSUE

Bagalawad village faces drinking water crisis for days

KAVITAL

Residents of Bagalawad village near Kavital are facing a severe drinking water crisis after a borewell pump set remained defunct for the past five days, allegedly due to official negligence.

According to villagers, the village receives water supply from the tank once every three days. However, borewell water is the primary source for drinking, household use, and livestock needs. The breakdown of the borewell pump has disrupted supply to Wards 2, 3, 4, and 5, leaving residents struggling to access even basic drinking water.

Locals said long queues of empty pots at public taps have become a daily sight, highlighting the severity of the shortage. They alleged that despite repeated complaints to the concerned authorities, no immediate repair work has been undertaken to restore the water supply.

Villagers Husenappa Manikatte and Ayyappa Uppal expressed concern over the condition of the village tank water, stating that it has become highly contaminated with worms, garbage, and other impurities, making it unfit for consumption. With the borewell out of service, they said residents have been left with no safe drinking water source.

Other residents, including Husenappa Madagiri, Lingaraj Nayak, Siddappa Dyavannavar, Ramanna Kandeppa, Timmanna Uppal, Shivanand Bommanal, and Channabasappa Mantri, alleged that women and children are forced to walk long distances to nearby agricultural fields to fetch water from alternate borewells, disrupting daily routines and livelihoods.

They urged the Gram Panchayat and concerned authorities to take immediate action to repair the defunct pump set and restore drinking water supply without further delay. Villagers warned that continued negligence could worsen the crisis and affect public health in the region.

Officials have been urged to conduct urgent maintenance work and ensure a permanent solution to prevent recurring water shortages in the village.

QUICK READ

BLOs invited for special voter photo contest

CHITRADURGA

The District Sweep Committee has organised a voter photo competition for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) as part of the Special Comprehensive Revision of voter lists in the district.The competition aims to identify special voters and highlight their participation in the democratic process. BLOs can submit photos of first-time voters, women voters, senior citizens, specially-abled voters, and people living in remote areas.

Each BLO should send only one photo of a voter in file format. A short description of the voter, BLO name, mobile number, ward number, and assembly constituency details must be included. Officials stated that voter consent is compulsory and no personal documents or identity cards should appear in the photo.Entries must be sent through WhatsApp before July 10. District Sweep Committee Chairman and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash said BLOs who successfully identify special voters through the competition will receive appreciation and rewards for their efforts in strengthening voter awareness.

Hostel admission applications open for eligible students

Chikkaballapura

Applications are invited online from eligible students for admission to post-matric boys and girls hostels for the 2026-27 academic year. Students from Category-1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, and P. J./P. categories can apply for general degree courses. The last date for submitting applications is July 20. Students can apply through the official hostel admission portal. Officials advised candidates to check eligibility, required documents, and hostel details before applying.

Government rules out cut in Graha Jyothi scheme benefits

K.J. George said the exercise only verifies records, preventing ineligible beneficiaries while ensuring eligible citizens receive scheme benefits

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Energy Minister K.J. George clarified that the government has no plans to cancel or reduce the benefits of the Graha Jyothi scheme. He said the ongoing process is only aimed at identifying eligible beneficiaries and ensuring proper implementation.

Speaking to reporters in the city, the minister said there is no change in the original purpose of the scheme. The government is collecting updated information to make sure that the benefits of free electricity reach only deserving families.

He explained that application forms will soon be distributed to households. During this process, officials will provide details about eligibility rules and collect necessary information from beneficiaries.

K.J. George said the exercise is not a new revision or an attempt to remove the scheme. It is only an administrative step to verify records and prevent ineligible persons from receiving benefits meant for eligible citizens.

At present, around 1.64 crore families across the state are receiving benefits under the Graha Jyothi scheme. The minister said the information collection process is being carried out to maintain transparency and strengthen the system. He assured that genuine beneficiaries would continue to receive the scheme benefits without any difficulty.

Responding to concerns regarding the collection of caste details in application forms, the minister said the information is being collected only for administrative and record purposes. He added that there would be no discrimination and every eligible family would be treated equally.

The minister's statement has helped clear doubts among the public regarding the future of the scheme. He said the government's focus is on making welfare programmes reach the right people effectively.

Meanwhile, discussions have continued regarding the verification of beneficiaries under various guarantee schemes. The government has been reviewing records to remove only ineligible beneficiaries while protecting the interests of eligible citizens. Officials said such verification measures are important to maintain financial discipline and ensure that public funds are used properly.

Demand grows to remove MLA Pradeep Eshwar

Hanumantegowda sought action against Eshwar, requesting inquiries by authorities and Congress leadership, while questioning the MLA's conduct and program-related concerns

RAMANAGAR

District Samana Manaskara Vokkaliga Vedike President Hanumantegowda demanded action against Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar over his alleged remarks about Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and the Vokkaliga community.

He said people across Karnataka are living peacefully and such statements could affect social harmony. He accused the MLA of making comments that may create tension among communities and urged authorities to respond quickly.

Hanumantegowda said a complaint would be submitted to the Governor seeking action against Eshwar. He added that representations would also be made to the Legislative Assembly Speaker and Congress leadership demanding an inquiry.

He questioned the conduct of the MLA and said public figures must maintain responsibility while addressing people. He also raised concerns about an incident related to a public program and said organizers should also be examined if rules were violated.

The Vedike president alleged that Pradeep Eshwar's participation in a Kempegowda Jayanti program had raised doubts and requested leaders to take suitable action if any wrongdoing was found.

BJP leaders and others attended the press conference. The organization said it would continue raising the issue through democratic channels and expected fair investigation from authorities. It urged political parties to maintain peace and avoid statements that could divide society.

The matter has created discussion among people and leaders about the importance of responsible public communication. Hanumantegowda stated that legal and political steps would follow based on the response from concerned authorities. He said harmony among communities should remain the priority while addressing public issues. The association hoped the controversy would be resolved through proper democratic process.

Chairman said Madikeri inspections found cases for verification, with officials planning recovery of deceased beneficiaries' funds and proper transfers

Guarantee Schemes review highlights welfare progress

MADIKERI

The Taluk Committee Meeting of Guarantee Schemes was held under the chairmanship of M.G. Mohan Das, Chairman of the Implementation Committee of Guarantee Schemes.

Officials discussed the progress of various welfare programmes and reviewed issues related to beneficiaries during the meeting. Under the Grahalakshmi Scheme, authorities examined payment records and found cases where scheme amounts were deposited into common bank accounts linked with different ration cards. Field verification was ordered to correct such issues and ensure transparency in the scheme implementation.

The chairman said that inspections in Madikeri taluk identified several cases requiring verification and the details were submitted to higher authorities. Officials also discussed steps to recover amounts deposited in accounts of deceased beneficiaries and transfer eligible funds properly to government accounts.

The meeting highlighted Shakti Yojana achievements where thousands of women and students used free bus travel facilities. Officials reported passenger numbers and revenue generated under the scheme while members raised concerns about bus shortages on certain routes. The department was instructed to improve services and ensure timely departure of buses from stations.

Under Yuvanidhi Scheme, officers explained eligibility conditions for graduates and diploma holders who are unemployed and seeking financial support. They said beneficiaries must provide regular self-declaration for continued assistance through direct benefit transfer.

The meeting also reviewed Grahajyothi Scheme progress in Madikeri taluk with high registration levels among eligible consumers. Annabhagya Scheme details were presented regarding ration cards and beneficiaries. Officials informed that verification of ineligible beneficiaries is continuing and new applications will follow government guidelines.

Committee members discussed public concerns including electricity infrastructure and transport facilities. They urged departments to coordinate better and solve issues affecting citizens. The chairman emphasized that effective implementation of guarantee schemes depends on cooperation between officials and the public.

The meeting concluded with directions to maintain transparency and provide benefits to eligible people without delays.

Representatives from different departments attended the discussion and shared updates on ongoing welfare programmes.

Red alert issued across DK, Schools to Close on 2 July

MANGALURU

The Dakshina Kannada District Disaster Management Authority has declared a red alert across the district following a forecast of continued heavy rainfall issued by the India Meteorological Department and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre. As a precautionary step, the authority has announced several emergency measures.

District orders more Kannada on business signboards

MADIKERI

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sahana S. Hadimani said 60 percent Kannada language usage should be compulsory on nameplates of industries, commercial establishments, shops and businesses across the district.

She was speaking at the Kannada Awareness Committee meeting held at the Additional Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday. The meeting discussed the development, implementation and promotion of Kannada language.

Dr. Hadimani said Kannada is an ancient and rich language, and the committee has an important role in protecting and promoting it. She directed local bodies and concerned departments to create awareness about the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act and ensure proper implementation.

She said Kannada should receive priority on nameboards installed within city, town and district limits. Officials were asked to take necessary steps through local authorities to increase public awareness.

Committee members also discussed promoting Kannada in advertisements, government services and educational institutions. They suggested that Kannada programs, competitions and cultural activities should be organized in schools and colleges.

Member Amin Mosin highlighted the contributions of people from Kodagu who brought recognition to the district and suggested setting up a museum to showcase their achievements and local culture.Officials said efforts will be made to include information about achievers on the district website and display cultural artworks at tourist locations. The committee also planned more workshops and activities to encourage Kannada among students and the public.

Citizens urged to join voter list revision drive

BHATKAL

Citizens were urged to participate responsibly in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list during an awareness meeting organized by Majlis-e-Islah va Tanzeem and Bhatkal Muslim Youth Federation.

The meeting was held at Rabita Society in Navayat Colony, where Tanzeem General Secretary Maulana Azizur Rahman Nadvi appealed to people to carefully take part in the voter list revision process. He said that recent concerns related to voter records and citizenship issues in some states have highlighted the importance of maintaining accurate electoral lists.

He explained that Booth Level Officers will visit houses and distribute enumeration forms. A responsible member of each family can provide details of all family members. Special attention should be given to people working in Gulf countries so that their names are not accidentally removed from the voter list.

The meeting also requested mosque imams to create awareness among citizens about the revision process after prayers. Speakers said that religious and community leaders can play an important role in guiding people because their messages reach a large section of society.

For public convenience, a special help centre has been opened on Bandar Road. Volunteers will assist citizens from 9 am to 5 pm. The organizers also suggested starting help centres in different areas with the support of youth groups to help people fill forms correctly.

Bhatkal Muslim Youth Federation General Secretary Mubashir Hallare gave practical information through a presentation. He said the revision process provides an opportunity to correct mistakes in old records and remove names of deceased persons from the voter list.

Officials informed that Booth Level Agents have been appointed to support citizens and help submit necessary documents to authorities. They will also assist in protecting the voting rights of eligible people.

Tanzeem President Inayatullah Shabandri said citizens should not worry about minor issues in the process and advised everyone to verify old voter list details, including serial numbers and part numbers.The meeting concluded with an appeal to all eligible citizens to cooperate actively so that no person is deprived of the right to vote. Tanzeem Vice President Muhammad Sadiq Pillur, Advocate Imran Lanka and other members were present.

Mangaluru starts road enhancement projects worth crores

MANGALURU

Development authorities in Mangaluru have taken a significant step toward improving urban mobility with the start of concrete road construction across multiple lanes in the 8th ward. Dr. Bharath Shetty, the sitting BJP legislator representing Mangaluru City North, personally oversaw the ceremonial launch of these enhancement efforts, which carry a total estimated cost of two crore Rupees.

The initiative targets vital stretches including Sri Dhoomavathi Road where fresh concrete surfaces and comprehensive stormwater drains will replace existing patches. Nearby neighborhoods such as the NMPI Housing Colony, Annappa Road, TK Chowta Nagar, Brindavan Nagar, and Shivajinagar will also benefit from smoother pavements designed to withstand heavy monsoon flows.

Residents have long awaited these upgrades, which officials expect will reduce daily commute times and minimize waterlogging during rainy seasons. Community leaders and former municipal representatives joined the event, underscoring broad local support for the project.

With work now underway, city planners anticipate quicker completion timelines that could transform everyday travel for thousands of families in this growing part of the coastal hub.

Kalaburagi Rotti Global challenge aims startup growth

KALABURAGI

The administration, in collaboration with KDEM, has announced the "Kalaburagi Rotti Global Challenge 2026" with the objective of building a strong food brand around the GI-tagged Kalaburagi rotti and promoting entrepreneurship among youth. Assistant Commissioner of Kalaburagi Sub-Division, Sangeeta Aladakatti, said the initiative is designed to provide a platform for innovative ideas that can take the traditional local food to national and international markets.Speaking at a press conference held at the Assistant Commissioner's office near Jagat Circle, she said the competition is open to all, with special encouragement for college students and recent graduates. The programme aims to identify creative business models and scalable startup ideas based on Kalaburagi rotti and related food products.She added that the challenge will focus on how local culinary heritage can be transformed into a strong commercial brand through innovation, packaging, marketing, and global outreach. Participants will be guided to develop practical business solutions that can attract investment and create employment opportunities in the region.

Vijayapura chain-reaction crash sends truck off bridge

VIJAYAPURA

A truck plunged off a bridge after a chain-reaction collision on the Kolar Bridge in Vijayapura district on Tuesday, triggering panic among motorists and bringing traffic to a temporary halt.

According to police, the accident involved multiple vehicles that collided one after another on the busy stretch. The impact reportedly caused the truck driver to lose control, leading to the vehicle falling off the bridge. The truck sustained severe damage in the crash.

Following the incident, commuters in the area were left shocked as traffic movement was disrupted for some time. Authorities quickly rushed to the spot and began clearing the wreckage to restore normal traffic flow.Police teams also initiated rescue operations immediately after receiving information about the accident.

QUICK READ

Fire safety mock drill planned for industry workers

Chitradurga

A fire safety demonstration and mock drill will be held on July 2 at the Central Silver Plant in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission premises, Chitradurga industrial area. The programme will begin at 11 am and will teach workers how to respond during unexpected fire accidents. Officials will demonstrate fire control methods, safety measures, and the correct use of firefighting equipment. The District Fire Officer said the event aims to create awareness among industrial staff and help them understand safety steps needed to protect workers and property during emergencies. The session will provide practical training for better preparedness.

KRIMS ventilators remain safe and fully functional

Karwar

Adequate ventilators in good condition are available and functioning at KRIMS Hospital. There is no shortage of ventilators and officials confirmed that all machines are working properly. The hospital also has sufficient oxygen supply for patients. KRIMS Director said the equipment was purchased through a government tender at a cost of Rs. 24.62 crore and supplied to the hospital. The machines were checked by experts and department heads before use. Officials stated that the medical equipment is safe and functioning well. The hospital assured patients that necessary facilities are available and care services will continue without problems.

Workshop to guide rehabilitation workers on schemes

Udupi

A one-day information workshop for rural and urban rehabilitation workers of Karkala taluk will be held on July 3 at the Karkala Taluk Panchayat. The workshop, starting at 10 am, will provide details about schemes offered by the Department of Disabled Persons and services available at the District Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons. Officials said the programme aims to help rehabilitation workers understand available facilities and support systems better. The District Rehabilitation Centre office informed that the session will improve awareness and help workers provide better assistance to persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas.

Raw bomb supplier arrested in car blast case

Authorities secured the recovered bomb, conducted controlled disposal, and sent collected remains for forensic examination in Shira city

TUMAKURU

Police have arrested a person who allegedly supplied a raw bomb linked to the car explosion case on the Tumakuru-Shira highway. District Superintendent of Police Ashok K. V. said the investigation revealed that George Niklov Fernandes provided the explosive material to Nagendra, who died in the incident.

The explosion occurred on June 27 and police confirmed the use of a raw bomb during the investigation. A joint operation was carried out by the Tumakuru Special Investigation Team and Uttara Kannada district police, leading to the arrest of the accused from Chandavar village in Honnavar.

Police officials said Fernandes had prepared and supplied raw bombs locally, mainly for fishing activities. The investigation also found that he had allegedly given similar materials to other local persons including Sandeep Gowda, Narayana Dollugowda and Nagaraju Dollugowda.

The accused became unwell during questioning and was admitted to Kumta Government Hospital by Ankola police for treatment. Further investigation will continue after his recovery, officials said.

The raw bomb recovered from the explosion site was secured by authorities. A forensic team later examined the material and carried out a controlled disposal in an isolated area of Shira city. The remains were collected and sent for further scientific examination.

Police have formed special teams to trace the source of the explosive material and identify everyone connected to the case. DySP of Shira Sub-Division B.K. Shekhar and CPI D.G. Srinivas are leading the investigation with a team of officers.

The police said further details will be revealed after completing the ongoing investigation.

Authorities assured that strict action will be taken against those involved in the incident.

Rain shortfall: Farmers urged to adopt alternative crops

MANDYA

Dr. Kumar said delayed rains slowed sowing, urged alternative crops, and directed officials to prepare plans protecting farmers from drought-related losses

The district administration has advised farmers to adopt alternative crops and scientific farming methods as the monsoon rains have failed to meet expectations in Mandya district. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar stressed the need for creating awareness among farmers to prevent losses caused by irregular rainfall.

Speaking at a review meeting held at the District Collector's office on seed distribution and crop planning, Dr. Kumar said that sowing activities have been slow due to insufficient rains. He noted that only about five percent of the sowing target has been completed so far, while rainfall in the district is nearly 35 percent below normal.

He said farmers should be guided to choose short-duration and less water-consuming crop varieties when monsoon rains are delayed. The Agriculture Department has already suggested alternative crops such as millets, ragi, arka crops, buckwheat, linseed and sunflower instead of traditional paddy cultivation.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed agriculture officials to prepare a detailed alternative crop plan and submit a report within one week. He emphasized that timely planning is essential to protect farmers from financial losses during drought-like conditions.

He also directed that nodal scientists be appointed in all 31 hoblis of the district to conduct awareness programmes and hold regular meetings with farmers. These initiatives are expected to strengthen communication between farmers and experts at the field level.

Dr. Kumar further assured that there is no shortage of seeds or fertilizers in the district and sufficient stock is available to meet demand. He asked officials to create awareness through farmer contact centres and ensure that farmers are informed about suitable crops based on weather conditions.

Officials were also instructed to conduct taluk-level meetings to guide farmers on alternative farming practices and improve preparedness for uncertain monsoon conditions.

BACHENAHATTI TO GET KARNATAKA PUBLIC SCHOOL SOON

MAGADI

A new Karnataka Public School (KPS) will be started at Bachenahatti in Magadi taluk to strengthen government education and provide better learning opportunities for rural children, said Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy.

Speaking after visiting Bachenahatti High School with education officials and local leaders, Krishnamurthy said MLA H.C. Balakrishna has given importance to improving the education system through group education projects in the taluk. He said KPS schools in Sankegatta, Thippasandra and Kudur are already functioning successfully.

He explained that more than 1,800 students are receiving quality education at Kudur and similar facilities will now be provided at Bachenahatti. The new school will offer classes from LKG to PUC under one roof, giving students access to better facilities near their homes.

To address teacher shortages and improve competition with private schools, 15 government schools under Bachenahatti Gram Panchayat will be merged. Schools in Maralagondanahalli and Kallur villages will remain separate due to higher student numbers. The combined system will provide quality group education to 166 students using available teaching resources.

Until a new building is constructed, classes from 6th to 10th standard will be conducted in the existing high school building, while lower classes will function in another Gram Panchayat building. Plans are also being made to include a PU college facility in the future.

Officials said a free transport system will be introduced for students travelling from nearby villages. Routes have already been planned to make travel easier without affecting school staff duties.

The school's former students have also supported the initiative by collecting funds and improving the appearance of the school building through painting and decoration.

Field Education Officer Rajegowda said three KPS schools are already active in the taluk and the remaining approved schools, including Bachenahatti, will begin operations this year. Teachers have received training to teach in both Kannada and English mediums.

Former representatives and community members said the new school would help poor and middle-class children receive quality education free of cost.

The initiative is expected to bring modern learning facilities to rural areas and help students compete at wider levels in the future.

Guarantee officials asked to support voter revision work

CHITRADURGA

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman R. Shivanna Ganjigatte has appealed to all Guarantee Committee office bearers to actively participate in the Comprehensive Revision of Voter List process.

He said district and taluk-level chairmen, vice-chairmen and members should coordinate with BLO-2 officials in their respective areas and help complete the SIR-2026 process effectively. He stressed that special attention should be given to including all eligible new voters in the voter list.

Shivanna said office bearers have the responsibility of ensuring proper implementation of government guarantee schemes while also supporting the voter revision work. He asked them to maintain regular contact with BLOs and local leaders to avoid mistakes during the process.

He added that, as per the directions of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and district MLAs, officials should work carefully to ensure benefits reach eligible citizens. He also warned that people whose names are missing from the voter list may face difficulties in receiving guarantee scheme benefits and other government facilities.

The chairman urged committee members to create awareness among beneficiaries and encourage them to verify their voter details.

Haveri leaders urge citizens to protect voting rights

HAVERI

Assembly Speaker and MLA Rudrappa Lamani said voting is a fundamental right of every citizen and urged eligible people to ensure their names are included in the voter list during the special comprehensive revision process.

Speaking at a meeting of BLA-2 representatives of Haveri Assembly constituency held at the tourist center, he said the revision process will continue until the end of this month. He asked workers to help Dalits, daily wage workers and other eligible citizens complete the required procedures without errors.

Lamani said voter cards represent a citizen's identity and existence, and no eligible person should be left out of the list.

Chitradurga records steady progress in SIR voter verification drive

CHITRADURGA

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls is progressing steadily in Chitradurga district, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carrying out house-to-house visits to distribute enumeration forms to voters.

The exercise, launched on June 30 under the directions of the Election Commission of India, will continue until July 29. As of July 1, officials had distributed 1,64,428 enumeration forms across the district, which has 1,661 polling stations and 14.40 lakh registered voters.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh on Wednesday visited Bommalinganahalli, Molakalmuru and Challakere taluks to review the progress of the verification drive and inspect the distribution of forms.

According to official data, the district has identified 14,809 deceased voters, 58 permanently shifted voters, 39 duplicate entries and 10 absent voters during the ongoing revision process. Officials said the exercise aims to ensure that the electoral rolls remain accurate and updated ahead of future elections.

Journalists pay tribute to reporter Ishwar in Pavagada

PAVAGADA

The Pavagada Taluk Press Association organized a condolence meeting following the sudden demise of Tumkur newspaper reporter Ishwar. Journalists gathered and paid emotional tributes by offering flowers to his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, Working Journalists Association District Director and Taluk In-charge Dodderi Kanimayya said Ishwar was an active, honest and dedicated journalist. He worked continuously to highlight public issues and bring the concerns of ordinary people before the authorities through his reports.

He said Ishwar always played an important role in journalist organizations and his death is a major loss to the media community. His commitment and contribution to journalism will be remembered, he added.

Journalist Satya Lokesh said he was deeply saddened by Ishwar's passing. He described him as a responsible reporter who covered issues with accuracy and sincerity. He said Ishwar had a strong concern for society and always worked for the welfare of people.

Journalist Ramanjinappa shared his memories of Ishwar and said he had known him since his days working at Prajapragathi newspaper. He remembered Ishwar as a kind, humble and friendly person who treated everyone with respect.

He said Ishwar considered journalism not just a profession but a service to society. His absence has created a big gap among colleagues and friends.

GREEN-OFFICE-INITIATIVE

Karwar office adopts solar power for savings

KARWAR

The Uttara Kannada District Social Forestry Division Office has become a model for renewable energy use by installing a solar rooftop system and reducing its electricity expenses significantly. The initiative has helped the government office move towards clean energy while also creating additional income through electricity generation.

A 5 kW solar rooftop net metering system was installed at the Karwar office at a cost of Rs. 4.20 lakh. The system became operational in April 2026 and now produces an average of 600 units of electricity every month. During summer, daily production reached nearly 29.5 units, while rainy season generation continues at around 6 units per day.

Before the solar installation, the office paid around Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 every month for electricity. After the project, the monthly electricity expense has reduced to about Rs. 1,000, saving more than 80 percent of the cost.

The extra electricity produced after meeting office requirements is supplied to the local power grid. HESCOM pays the department Rs. 3.08 per unit for the additional electricity supplied. Already, 292 units of surplus power have been sold.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Manjunath Navi said the project shows how government buildings can successfully adopt eco-friendly technology. He explained that solar panels on office rooftops can reduce government spending and help control environmental pollution.

The idea was encouraged during a district meeting where officials suggested generating solar power from government buildings. Following this, the Social Forestry Department office installed the rooftop plant with support from the administration.

Hi-Tech Hospital To Begin Public Service Soon

HUNSUR

The newly constructed Hi-Tech Hospital on Hunsur Nagar Bypass Road has reached its final stage and will be handed over within two months for public service, District Nodal Officer Dr. Mallika said.

During a review visit related to the Pulse Polio Program, Dr. Mallika met health officials and discussed the progress of the hospital project. City Public Hospital Superintendent Dr. Shivshankar requested the concerned department to complete the remaining work quickly so that the hospital could be shifted to the new building.

Dr. Mallika said the final construction work, completed with a grant of Rs. 9 crore, is expected to finish soon. After receiving necessary approvals, the facility will be handed over for use. She also said the bypass road work is underway and the issue will be brought to the attention of the MLA for early completion.

The nodal officer appreciated the taluk's achievement of 99.90 percent success in the Pulse Polio Campaign. She also reviewed patient-related issues and hospital facilities.

An emergency vehicle donated by HPCL was provided to Hunsur Public Hospital, taking the total number of available vehicles to four.

QUICK READ

Students honour doctors during National Day celebration

Hunsur

Talent Education Institute students visited the city public hospital during National Doctors' Day and honoured doctors on duty. They distributed fruits, hampers and bread to patients, making the celebration meaningful. Students appreciated doctors' service and learned about their important role in society. Hospital officials including Dr. Satish, Dr. Sujatha, Dr. Sujitha and Dr. V. Ravikumar attended the programme. Teachers and over a hundred students participated. Doctors and staff praised the institute's social service and efforts. The event highlighted respect for healthcare workers and encouraged young people to support community welfare activities with kindness and great enthusiasm.

Mahiboob Jeelan takes charge as Koppal Sub-Divisional Officer

Koppal

Mahiboob Jeelan has officially assumed charge as the Koppal Sub-Divisional Officer following a government notification. He took over the position on June 25. The Sub-Divisional Officer's office informed that all government, semi-government, and other official letters requiring the officer's attention should now be sent to Mahiboob Jeelan at the Koppal Sub-Divisional Office. Officials shared the office contact details for communication with the new officer. The appointment is expected to strengthen administrative work in the subdivision and ensure smooth public services. The department welcomed the new officer and wished him success in his responsibilities.

Farmers must submit declaration for crop insurance

Gadag

Farmers registering under the Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the 2026-27 monsoon season have been asked to submit a self-declaration. The Agriculture Department said loan-free farmers must confirm that they have not received Kisan Credit Card or agricultural loans from banks for the insured crops.

Five arrested with stolen gold and weapons

TUMAKURU

The Tumakuru police have arrested a group accused of robbing motorists on roads and stealing valuables from temples across the district. They seized twenty-five gold thalis weighing eighty-six grams and other ornaments. The arrested accused included people from Hassan, Mandya and Ramanagara districts.Police said the suspects were caught near Jodugatte village in Turuvekere taluk while allegedly preparing to commit another robbery. Weapons and stolen items were recovered during the investigation.Officials said the gang had stolen from twenty-two temples and collected property worth lakhs. Superintendent of Police Ashok K.V. said cases were registered and further inquiry is ongoing.

Over 1.31 lakh students join anti-drug pledge drive

Dr. Heggade urged youth to practice discipline and self-control, warning that addiction harms individuals, families, and society

BELTHANGADY

In a major statewide initiative, more than 1.31 lakh students from 1,281 schools and colleges across Karnataka participated in the online "Swasthya Sankalpa" programme aimed at creating awareness against substance abuse on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse.

The programme was organised by Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Grama Abhivruddhi Yojane and Akhila Karnataka Janajagruti Vedike and was simultaneously conducted across educational institutions. The central event, hosted at the organisation's main office, was inaugurated by Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Heggade highlighted the importance of discipline and self-control among youth. He said that while human senses are naturally drawn towards temptations, it is essential to exercise restraint to lead a meaningful life. He cautioned that addiction not only destroys individual futures but also harms families and society, and urged students to remain vigilant and committed to positive values.

Hemavati V. Heggade emphasized the need for sustained efforts to build an addiction-free society and said that the Janajagruti Vedike has been working as a social movement to promote awareness. She encouraged young people to become role models and spread awareness about healthy living and moral values.

Renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, who participated as a resource person, urged students to use their potential constructively for nation-building. He advised them to engage in service-oriented activities and avoid falling into harmful habits that can derail their future.Senior police officer Dr. H.N. Venkatesh Prasanna delivered a detailed presentation on the dangers of drug abuse, legal consequences, and its wider social impact. He also highlighted preventive measures and the importance of community participation in tackling the issue.

Organisers noted that the Janajagruti Vedike has conducted over 24,500 awareness programmes so far, reaching nearly 21 lakh students, supported by around 1,300 trained resource persons.

The event witnessed participation from several officials and dignitaries, and concluded with a collective pledge by students to stay away from drugs and lead disciplined, healthy lives.

Sunil Kumar Bajal said MCC Commissioner must follow legal frameworks, criticising decisions allegedly made without proper scrutiny

CITU threatens agitation over MCC street vendor raids

MANGALURU

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has warned of intensifying its protest if the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) continues eviction drives against street vendors without providing alternative rehabilitation measures.

A large organisational meeting was held at AKG Bhavan in Bolar under the leadership of the Dakshina Kannada District Street Vendors Association affiliated to CITU. The meeting focused on safeguarding the livelihood rights of street vendors and opposing what the union termed as "unilateral and illegal" enforcement actions by the civic body.

CITU Dakshina Kannada District General Secretary Sunil Kumar Bajal, inaugurating the meeting, stated that the MCC Commissioner must function strictly within constitutional and legal frameworks. He criticised the corporation for allegedly taking decisions without proper legal scrutiny and called such actions unacceptable.

Honorary President B.K. Imtiyaz strongly objected to the use of bulldozers against street vendors, stating that such measures were against the welfare-oriented governance model expected in Karnataka. He questioned the state government's silence and warned that continued enforcement actions without rehabilitation would lead to intensified protests.

Several leaders, including Sikandar Beg, Vijay Jain, Shivanand, Jyothi Bai, Nagaraj, and Lakkamma, addressed the gathering, expressing solidarity with the vendors and condemning eviction drives. They alleged that repeated raids were disrupting the livelihoods of economically vulnerable families dependent on street vending.

The meeting also passed a series of resolutions demanding that all MCC eviction operations, including Sunday bazaar actions, be halted until proper rehabilitation arrangements are made. It called for the formation of a Town Vending Committee under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, along with a proper survey and issuance of identity cards and certificates to vendors.

Officials told to act against begging and child marriage

HOSAPETE

Ballari Principal District and Sessions Judge K.M. Rajashekar directed officials to take strict action against child begging and child marriage cases during the district-level monthly progress review meeting held at the district court.

Speaking at the meeting, the judge instructed officials to immediately rescue children found begging on roads, junctions and religious places. He said such children should be shifted to safe care centres and children's homes to protect their future.

The judge said police officials and the Women and Child Development Department must work together whenever children are involved in begging activities. He also appealed to citizens to share information about such cases through the child helpline 1098 or emergency number 112.

Expressing concern over increasing cases of child marriage and POCSO-related incidents in rural areas, Rajashekar stressed the need for joint efforts by police, education officials and child welfare departments. He said awareness programmes should be conducted regularly to prevent such social issues.

The judge also directed authorities to identify school dropouts through house-to-house surveys and help them return to education. He emphasized that girls' education should receive special attention to build a safer and stronger society.

During the meeting, officials discussed public complaints related to delays in land surveys, land acquisition and settlement matters. The judge instructed revenue officials to resolve these issues at the local level and prevent unnecessary disputes from reaching courts.

He also highlighted the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled for July 11. The event aims to settle more than 4,000 civil, criminal and compromise cases. He encouraged citizens to use the opportunity to resolve disputes quickly through legal procedures.

Several senior officials attended the meeting, including Additional District and Sessions Judge B.T. Kumaraswamy, District Legal Services Authority representatives, police officers, social welfare officials and local administration members.The meeting concluded with a call for better coordination among departments to protect children, improve public services and ensure quick justice for citizens. Officials said collective action and public support are essential to address social problems effectively and create a safer environment for everyone in the district.

Namratha Mohan urges balance between passion and profession

MOODBIDRI

Spiritual content creator Namratha Mohan, popularly known as 'Temple Girl', has urged students to maintain a healthy balance between profession and personal passion to achieve true and lasting success.

She was speaking at a special lecture organised by the Rostrum Speakers Club of Alva's Education Foundation under the Belandigala Chintana series in Moodbidri. Addressing students, she shared her personal journey from corporate careers to digital content creation focused on temples and Indian spiritual heritage.

Namratha Mohan recounted her early struggles, noting that she cleared job interviews after 19 attempts before working with major firms such as JP Morgan, Citi Bank, and Walt Disney.

Despite a successful corporate career, she and her husband later chose to leave their jobs to pursue content creation without any formal background in video production.

Master plan panel meet soon at Kukke Temple

SUBRAHMANYA

A Master Plan Committee meeting will be convened soon to initiate development works worth ₹604 crore at the Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple to enhance facilities for devotees, said State Religious Endowment Commissioner Sharat B during his visit to the shrine.

The commissioner stated that several major infrastructure projects, including a circumambulatory pathway (suttupowli), dormitory facilities, and construction of 1,000-room accommodation blocks, will be taken up under the comprehensive development plan. He assured that the works would begin shortly and be completed in a time-bound manner to benefit pilgrims visiting the temple.

Sharat B made the announcement after holding a series of meetings with the temple administration and Public Works Department officials at the temple premises. He also reviewed ongoing discussions regarding various development needs, including Ashlesha Bali mandapa, staff quarters, salary structures, recruitment of additional staff, and remuneration for ritual priests performing sevas at the temple.

He noted that all these aspects would be addressed systematically and confirmed that the Master Plan Committee meeting would be held soon to approve and accelerate the execution of pending works.

During his visit, the commissioner was accompanied by temple management committee members, executive officers, engineers, and advisory board members. He also inspected key locations identified for new constructions, including the proposed dormitory complex and staff residential quarters.Officials briefed him on the urgent infrastructure requirements aimed at improving facilities for the increasing number of devotees. The administration stressed the need for better accommodation, improved queue management systems, and enhanced service facilities at the temple.The commissioner also reviewed the architectural blueprint of the proposed circumambulatory pathway and examined the planned development areas on site.Temple authorities expressed confidence that the proposed ₹604 crore master plan will significantly upgrade pilgrim amenities and streamline temple operations once implemented.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED IBRAHIM** S/o CHAND PASHA aged 40 years, residing at NO 8, FLAT NO 502, 24TH MAIN ROAD, SECTOR 2 HSR LAYOUT, BENGALURU-560102, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHAMMED IBRAHEEM** TO MOHAMMED IBRAHIM , henceforth, and I shall be known and called as MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01ST JULY 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary R VISHWANATH at Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VAZEER AHMED ,** S/o, Mohammed Usman Tholalu, Resident of Rose Wood Estate Kollahalli Sakleshpura Taluk Hassan Dist 573134, have changed my name to **VAZEER AHAMMED ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **BADRUNNISA SYEDA ,** W/o, Hafeez Khan, Resident of No 3655,Ward No 11 Ghousia Mohalla BesideGhousia Masjid Ramanagar Dist,562159, have changed my name to **BADRUNNISA ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **CHANDRIKA S,** Aged 34 Years, D/o Shankar B, Resident at No.2, 2nd Cross, S R Nagar, Bengaluru South, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027, have changed my name to **KHADIJA FATIMA,** vide affidavit dated: 27.10.2025 before notary ARUNA.V, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **HAFIZ KHAN ,** S/o, Latif Khan, Resident of No 3655, Ward No 11 Ghousia Mohalla BesideGhousia Masjid Ramanagar Dist,562159, have changed my name to **HAFEEZ KHAN ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 808/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father, by name Gopakka W/o Puttahanumaiah who died on 20-09-1952 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 800/2025
Petitioner: Narasimhamurthy.D.M, S/o Muddhayya, Aged about 42 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Uncle, by name Kalluveeraiah S/o Puttarangaiah who died on 04-10-1994 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30.07.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha
Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 804/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Great Grandfather, by name Nanjappa who died on 15-04-1930 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 807/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father, by name Puttahanumaiah S/o Nanjappa who died on 14-08-1938 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

CHANGE OF NAME
I , **Prabhakar Kanshettappa Pillanna** R/o #524, WardNo. 10, Nagartha Pete, Chickballapur, I have been changed my name from **Prabhakar Kanshettappa Pillanna** to **Prabhakar** before notary SREEDEVI B R, dated: 29th june 2026 at Chickballapur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prameela** W/o Prabhakar R/o #524, WardNo. 10, Nagartha Pete, Chickballapur, I have been changed my name from **Pramila Prabhakar to Pramila** before notary **SREEDEVI B R**, dated: 29th june 2026 at Chickballapur

LOST OF DOCUMENTS
I, R. Rajesh S/o Renukaradhya, residing at No. 15 Dargajogihalli (towards Nagasandra Road), Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, hereby inform to the public that,
I have purchased the property measuring 30x35 feet, In Survey No. 58/5, 6.27 acres, Khatha No.: 2291, Site No.: 35, 30x35 registered in the name of R. Rajesh, Doddaballapur Sub-Registration Office, Book 1, Volume 12, Pages 55 to 57, Registration No.: DBPD 225, belonging to the village, Dargajogihalli, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, purchased from D. Kumar.
The said original purchase deed was accidentally lost While going to the Bus stand by auto from Shantinagar on: 28.05.2026. If anyone found this original purchase document please deliver it to the above address or inform to Mobile. No: 9886024088.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Bengal cops reshuffle: 15 senior officers transferred

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government announced a major reshuffle within the state police department, transferring 15 senior officers, including personnel from the Indian Police Service (IPS) and West Bengal Police Service (WBPS). The state secretariat at Nabanna issued the notification, which includes various promotions and new duty assignments. Key changes include Anjan Chakraborty moving to the State Forensic Science Laboratory as IGP, and Sumanjit Roy taking charge as the IGP of the Intelligence Branch (Border). Meanwhile, Rashid Munir Khan has been promoted and appointed as IGP (Headquarters).

Fake enforcement directorate agent arrested

AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Crime Branch has arrested Vijaykumar Patel for allegedly swindling 3.18 crore rupees from an Angadia firm. Patel, an Overseas Citizen of India, falsely claimed he had high-level connections within the ED and CBI to help the firm recover seized cash. After receiving payments in several installments, he failed to deliver results, leading the victims to file a formal complaint. Investigations revealed that Patel, previously jailed for a 120-crore rupee scam in Lucknow, used this deceptive influence to target others. Authorities are now searching for three co-accused as they investigate this extensive criminal network.

Govt may question WhatsApp username feature

NEW DELHI

The Indian government is reportedly planning to issue a formal notice to WhatsApp regarding its upcoming username feature. Officials fear the update, which allows users to interact without sharing phone numbers, could be exploited for impersonation, fraud, and misinformation.

While Meta claims the move enhances privacy, security experts warn that without strict safeguards, it may undermine current telecom rules requiring mobile number verification. With the Department of Telecommunications emphasizing SIM-binding to fight digital crime, authorities are demanding that WhatsApp prove its safety measures can prevent mass abuse before the feature rolls out further.

Cabinet clears Kanpur-Kabrai Greenfield highway project

The Rs 7,145-crore highway, once ready, to slash travel time to just one and a half hours, allowing vehicles to cruise safely at speeds between 80 and 100 km per hour

NEW DELHI

Travel between Kanpur and Kabrai is set to become much faster and easier. The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has officially approved a major new highway project.

This massive infrastructure plan will see the construction of a 117.7-kilometer, four-lane "greenfield" highway designed to link these two important regions seamlessly.

The project comes with a budget of over Rs 7,145 crore. Once completed, this modern road will be a game-changer for commuters and businesses alike. Currently, a trip between Kanpur and Kabrai takes about three and a half hours. The new high-speed corridor is expected to slash that travel time to just one and a half hours, allowing vehicles to cruise safely at speeds between 80 and 100 kilometers per hour.

Beyond just saving time, this highway is vital for the economy. By connecting industrial hubs in Uttar Pradesh with the resource-rich regions of Madhya Pradesh, it will make transporting minerals, farm produce, and industrial goods much more efficient. It also links directly with other key roads, such as the Bundelkhand Expressway.

The project is also a huge win for local workers. It is expected to create millions of days of new jobs during its construction phase. By boosting logistics and supporting regional growth, this new highway represents a significant step forward for the development of the entire Bundelkhand region. It is a clear commitment to making travel safer, cheaper, and faster for everyone living and working in the area.

Japanese PM Takaichi visits India for summit

NEW DELHI

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrived in India for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, marking her first official visit since taking office. Her three-day trip aims to deepen the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between the two nations during a period of significant global instability.

Before leaving Tokyo, Takaichi emphasized that Japan's collaboration with India is more vital than ever. She is accompanied by a massive delegation of over 150 business leaders, reflecting a strong push to boost trade, innovation, and economic security through public-private partnerships. The visit centers on realizing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, building upon agreements made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan last August.

Takaichi will receive a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan tomorrow morning before heading into formal talks with Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders are scheduled to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, with a heavy focus on energy, economic growth, and regional security. This summit is seen as a key opportunity to align India's "Act East" policy and the SAGAR vision with Japan's own Indo-Pacific strategy.

Having recently met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, both leaders have already signaled their intent to prioritize trade and investment. This high-level dialogue serves as a testament to the long-standing spiritual and cultural ties between the nations, aiming to solidify a robust partnership that ensures stability across the Indo-Pacific region for the next decade.

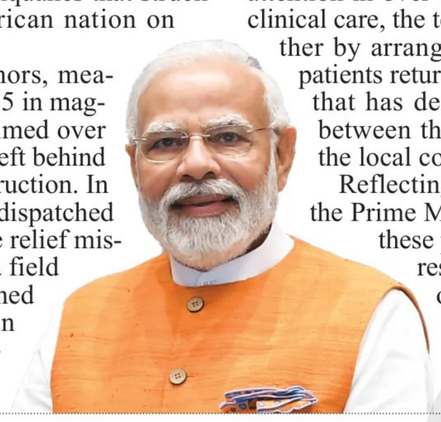
Modi hails Indian team aiding Venezuela

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded Indian medical professionals currently serving in Venezuela as "shining examples" of dedication and service.

His praise came on National Doctors' Day, highlighting the tireless work of the team deployed under "Operation Amistad" following two devastating earthquakes that struck the South American nation on June 24.

The twin tremors, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, have claimed over 1,400 lives and left behind widespread destruction. In response, India dispatched a comprehensive relief mission, including a field hospital established by the Indian Army, which began operations on June 28. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that the unit, equipped with vital medicines and specialized gear, is actively bolstering local recovery efforts.



Patients at the field hospital have expressed profound appreciation for the care provided. One local resident, who received treatment for her injuries, remarked that she had not experienced such dedicated medical attention in over 60 years. Beyond clinical care, the team has gone further by arranging transport for patients returning home, an act that has deepened the bond between the responders and the local community.

Reflecting on the mission, the Prime Minister noted that these professionals represent the very best of India's commitment to helping others during global crises.

Odisha govt orders probe over school textbook errors

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha School and Mass Education Department has pledged to resolve errors recently discovered in new textbooks for Classes I through VIII.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary N Thirumala Naik announced that the government is taking urgent steps to provide students with accurate, updated study materials as quickly as possible.

Following public feedback regarding inaccuracies, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered a formal inquiry. A committee led by the Development Commissioner has since investigated the lapses, identified the officials responsible, and initiated appropriate disciplinary action. To ensure learning remains uninterrupted, the department is distributing correction sheets to teachers while simultaneously finalizing plans to print and circulate fully revised editions.

Officials are also collaborating with subject experts to conduct a comprehensive review of all current texts. Corrected content will be made available on the department's official website, inviting teachers and the public to provide further feedback to guarantee total accuracy in the final print.

Addressing recent controversy regarding the inclusion of the popular Bollywood song "Nimbuda Nimbuda" in a school textbook, Naik clarified the pedagogical intent. He explained that the lesson is part of a music education module designed to show how traditional Indian folk songs are adapted and popularized by contemporary artists. He emphasized that the reference is strictly for cross-cultural educational purposes, intended to illustrate how regional music traditions gain wider recognition, and should not be misinterpreted. The government remains committed to refining these resources to uphold educational standards.

Manipur CM strengthens anti-drug fight with NCB

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to dismantling drug trafficking networks, following a high-level meeting with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The discussions, held with NCB Deputy Director General R. Sudhakar, focused on enhancing intelligence sharing and tightening enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Manipur, like neighboring Mizoram, faces unique security challenges due to its extensive, unfenced border with Myanmar. This proximity to the "Golden Triangle" a notorious global hub for illicit narcotics has made five districts, including Churachandpur and Tengnoupal, highly susceptible to cross-border smuggling. Smugglers frequently exploit these porous frontiers to transport narcotics into India.

Unregulated IVF centers face Maha govt crackdown

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has launched a major statewide crackdown on unauthorized sonography and In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) centers to combat illegal sex determination and medical malpractice.

Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar announced in the State Assembly that the government intends to invoke the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against violators, marking a significant escalation in enforcement efforts.

The initiative follows rising concerns from lawmakers regarding the surge in unregulated fertility clinics. Minister Abitkar highlighted a troubling trend of unnecessary IVF procedures and avoidable C-section deliveries.

He affirmed a "zero-tolerance" policy, stating that new legal measures will target anyone involved in oocyte trafficking, IVF malpractice, and violations of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, including doctors and hospital administrators.

Recent actions have already yielded results, with arrests made following the exposure of an illegal human egg-trafficking ring in Badlapur and Ambernath.

The health department has moved to permanently revoke the licenses of the doctors involved. Furthermore, authorities have suspended operations at the 'Babysure Clinic' and 'Indira IVF Centre' in Chandrapur after discovering significant operational irregularities.

Specialized state-level task forces are now conducting surprise raids across the region to ensure strict compliance.

In a move to improve access to ethical healthcare, the government is also considering including legitimate IVF services under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya scheme, ensuring that those in need can receive reliable, regulated care without facing the risks of the black market.

HC grants bail to TMC leader Majumdar

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court has granted interim bail to Trinamool Congress leader Jay Prakash Majumdar, allowing for his release from judicial custody after nearly a month. Majumdar had been arrested on June 3 following allegations of forcibly occupying a flat in the Phoolbagan area for over a decade.

The legal proceedings saw a brief delay when Justice Tirthankar Ghosh withdrew from the case on June 29 for personal reasons.

The bail application was subsequently moved to the bench of Justice Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, who approved the request. However, the court imposed strict conditions - Majumdar is prohibited from entering the Phoolbagan police station area, must appear at the local station at scheduled times, and is required to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation.

Majumdar's arrest followed long-standing tensions in the neighborhood. Residents and the flat's owner alleged that the leader leveraged his political influence to remain in the property long after his 2012 rental contract expired in 2015. Victims claimed that previous attempts to seek police intervention during the Trinamool's tenure went ignored.

The situation reached a breaking point on June 3 when locals protested outside his home.

Allegations surfaced that Majumdar assaulted protesters, prompting police intervention and his subsequent arrest on charges of forcible occupation, harassment, and threatening the elderly landlady.

As he leaves custody, the conditions set by the court aim to prevent further intimidation while the investigation into his alleged abuse of power continues.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT RAMANAGARA.
OS NO. 92 of 2025
BETWEEN: Syeda Haneen Sakhib, Aged about 22 years, Daughter of Syed Sakib Ur Rehman, Residing at ward No. 14, Town Police Station Road, Under ground building, Ramanagara Town. .....PLAINTIFF.
-AND-
The Head Mistress, St. Michel's English school & others ....DEFENDANTS. Defendant No.3: The Secretary, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Pragati House, 3rd Floor, 47-48, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. ..DEFENDANT NO. 3
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 3
The plaintiff has filed this suit for declaration of her father's name as Syed Sakib Ur Rehman, and for mandatory injunction directing the defendants to effect necessary changes relating to her father's name in the academic records.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court personally or through your counsel on 03-08-2026 at 11-00 A.M. to answer the issues in the suit. Failing which the matter will be proceeded in your absence and decided exparte.
By order and Seal of Court,
Sd/- Sherasthedar, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Ramanagara.
Advocate For Plaintiff:
Sd/- K.M. Amarnath, Advocate, Ramanagara.

RAMANAGARA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Kengal Hanumanthaiah Abhivrudhi Bhavan, B.M. Road, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.-562159, Ph: 080-27276616 e-mail: ruda.me@gmail.com
No: RUDA/E-Procurement/Tender Notification/96/2026-27 Date : 30.06.2026
Tender Notification
(Through KPPP portal only)
As per Karnataka tender transperancey 1999-2000 act 2000 rule accordingly tender has been invited under signed officer through KPPP as per Standard tender document. Eligible contractors registered in public work department can participate for the work tender called through kppp portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Maximum Amount of **Rs. 298.00 Lakhs**. EMD Amount is **Rs. 2.28 Lakhs.** Eligible Bidders can upload through kppp portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** within dated: **15.07.2026 upto 4:00 PM** as informed all the required document to be submitted. For more information contact engineering section of RUDA.
Sd/- Commissioner
Ramanagar Urban Development Authority
Bengaluru South Dist.
DIPR/BSD/147/SA/2026-27

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-105/2026-27 Date: 01.07.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)
Tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT257)
Tender Schedule is as below.
Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **01.07.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **03.07.2026, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **04.07.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **30.07.2026, 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **31.07.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**
Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026-27/606 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-1 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Providing the Street light in the work of Widening and Improvement work to road of Challakere (NH-150A) to Vishwanathanahalli Road (State Highway-243) from Km 76.10 to 76.485 in Challakere Taluk PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35581.	ರೂ. 18.57 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2	Providing the Street light in the Work of Widening and Improvement work to road at Km 330.10 link road (Loop Road) of Kumata-Kadamadagi Road (SH-48) in Challakere Taluk PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35574.	ರೂ. 9.82 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 14.07.2026 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.07.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/1420/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division,
P.U. Building, 9h Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
No: EE/SN/TEND/06/2026-27 Dated: 01-07-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar), BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the Table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Emergency works In Preparation of Ground for Celebration of Indepedence Day 15-08-2026 at Manikshaw Parade Ground and Other Allied Works in ward no 25, Ashoknagara. **Approx. Value of Work :** Rs. 30.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount :** Rs. 75000.00

Calendar of events: (1) The Tender Notification along with Blank Tender Form will be accessible in the website of GOK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Platform. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **06-07-2026 at 03.30 PM** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, 9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001 to Clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Instructions to Bidders of the bidding document. **(3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **09-07-2026 upto 04.00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of the Technical Bid Tenders is on **10-07-2026 after 04.30 P.M.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

QUICK READ

Court summons Abhishek Banerjee for voice test

KOLKATA

A West Bengal court has issued a fresh summons to Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee. He must appear at the Bidhannagar Court on July 8 at 10 a.m. for officials to collect his voice samples. This stems from a case where he allegedly made threatening remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Banerjee missed a previous appointment due to a legal challenge in the Calcutta High Court. However, a judge recently refused to block the sample collection, stating that investigators must be allowed to do their work. Banerjee is now expected to cooperate fully with the ongoing criminal investigation.

30 people injured in Jammu r oad accidents

SRINAGAR

Two separate road accidents in Jammu and Kashmir left thirty people injured. In Budgam, a passenger bus traveling from Beerwah to Budgam crashed near Nasrullahpora, injuring twenty-five people. Local villagers performed heroic rescues before the victims reached a nearby hospital. Meanwhile, a three-vehicle collision in the Pattan area of Baramulla district left five more individuals hurt. Two of those victims were sent to Srinagar for advanced medical care. Police are investigating both incidents. Authorities remain concerned about road safety in the region, noting that speeding and poor driving habits continue to cause dangerous crashes frequently.

Court orders takedown of Chadha's defamatory posts

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the removal of five online posts targeting BJP MP Raghav Chadha. His lawyers welcomed the decision, stating that free speech should not cover paid, organized campaigns designed to destroy a person's reputation. During the hearing, Chadha's team argued that professional agencies were hired to spread false narratives across social media. While the judge rejected a request for broader protections, he confirmed these specific posts were defamatory. The court noted that while political criticism is allowed, the line between fair commentary and illegal character assassination remains thin, requiring careful legal scrutiny for everyone.

CPI(M) leader's meeting with Chennithala debated

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former minister Kadakampally Surendran surprised everyone by visiting Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala. Riding a scooter, the CPI(M) leader claimed he sought a favor for a friend but kept details private. This mysterious meeting sparked rumors because investigators are currently finishing a report on the Sabarimala gold scam, which occurred during Surendran's term. While no link is proven, the timing feels suspicious to many onlookers. Adding to the drama, Surendran left without wearing a helmet. Now, people are asking if traffic cameras will catch him, testing if the law truly treats every citizen the same way.

Raj to BJP: Dirty politics will come back to bite you

Pointiong to the recent wave of political defections, MNS chief Raj Thackeray warned that such tactics will eventually lead to the party's own downfall.

THANE

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray lashed out at the current political climate, labeling it as "dirty and horrifying."

During a press conference in Thane, Thackeray directed a sharp critique at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the recent wave of political defections, warning that such tactics would eventually lead to the party's own downfall.

Addressing the split within the Shiv Sena, Thackeray did not hold back, stating that while buyers are responsible for these defections, the blame also lies with those who choose to be "up for sale."

He expressed deep concern over the long-term impact these political games are having on the nation's democratic values, cautioning that setting such precedents will cause immense damage to future generations.

Thackeray warned that the BJP's strategy of dismantling opposition parties will ultimately backfire. He drew historical parallels, arguing that when rulers focus solely on destroying their rivals, they inevitably foster new enemies from within their own ranks. He explicitly claimed that this internal discord has already begun to brew inside the BJP, noting that the party's current stability relies far too heavily on the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"When the foundation slips, the building collapses," he warned.

He further alleged that the strategy of breaking parties without merging them is a tactical move to manage potential internal leadership challenges in the future.

Thackeray's stark warning serves as a reminder that political dominance rarely lasts forever.

Ahir elected Maha Legislative Council Dy-chairman unopposed

MUMBAI

The election became a straightforward process after the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate, JM Abhyankar, withdrew his nomination.

In a major political shift, Shiv Sena leader Sachin Ahir was elected unopposed as the Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

The move came just one day after Ahir, a long-time aide to Aaditya Thackeray, made a surprise decision to leave the Shiv Sena (UBT) faction and join the Eknath Shinde-led camp.

The election became a straightforward process after the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate, JM Abhyankar, withdrew his nomination. Opposition leaders stated that the decision was made to honor the traditional conventions and collaborative spirit of the Upper House.

Following the withdrawal, Ahir's appointment was formally announced to a chamber of congratulatory messages from CM Devendra Fadnavis, DyCM Eknath Shinde, and other senior lawmakers.

This rapid elevation marks a significant blow to the Uddhav Thackeray-led party, which has seen several high-profile departures recently. Because Ahir was elected to his council seat under the 'bow and arrow' symbol, now officially recognized with the Shinde faction his switch does not trigger disqualification rules.

Supporters of the ruling Mahayuti coalition praised the selection, noting that Ahir's deep experience in Mumbai's labor unions and legislative matters will be a major asset to the government's operations in the house.

As he steps into this new constitutional role, all eyes will be on how he navigates the complex political waters of Maharashtra while balancing his new responsibilities in the Legislative Council.

CBI arrests Haryana IPS officer Gahlawat

NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown on corruption, the CBI arrested Deepak Gahlawat, a 2012-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre.

The officer, who was currently on central deputation with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security in Delhi, was taken into custody following an extensive bribery investigation. The case traces back to June 8, when the CBI first flagged suspicious activity involving a Delhi Police Inspector and two private individuals. As the probe deepened, authorities discovered that Gahlawat had allegedly demanded illegal payments.

The initiative, aimed at ensuring every child enters classroom, highlights govt's focus on education as foundation for a stronger nation.

Yogi launches school enrollment campaign

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath officially kicked off the second phase of the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' from Saharanpur.

The initiative, aimed at ensuring every child enters the classroom, highlights the government's focus on education as the foundation for a stronger nation.

During his address, the Chief Minister urged teachers, parents, and community leaders to treat this drive as a massive team effort, calling for full student enrollment over the next two weeks.

A major highlight of the event was the reported decline in school dropout rates across the state. CM Adityanath pointed out that while dropout figures previously hovered between 19 and 20 percent, they have now dropped to just 3 to 4 percent. He credited this positive shift to "Operation Kayakalp," a government program that has significantly improved school infrastructure. Many schools, which once lacked basic necessities like clean drinking water, toilets, and furniture, have now been transformed into modern learning spaces.

Beyond infrastructure, the government is also investing in the people who run these schools. Honorariums for part-time teachers and instructors have been nearly doubled, and new insurance coverage worth five lakh rupees will now protect those working within the school system.

Emphasizing that every uneducated child is a loss to society, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing a better future for every student. By investing in better facilities and supporting educators, the state hopes to build a more educated and self-reliant generation.

Nayara energy cuts fuel rates nationwide

BENGALURU

People across India are breathing a sigh of relief after Nayara Energy announced a significant drop in fuel prices. Petrol prices have dipped by five rupees per litre, while diesel is now three rupees cheaper.

This change comes as a welcome surprise for commuters, gig workers, and families who have struggled with high transportation costs over the last few weeks.

The price hike had been linked to rising tensions in the Middle East, which worried markets and kept oil costs high. Now that those global tensions have cooled, private retailers like Nayara are passing these savings on to their customers.

From bustling cities like Bengaluru to local towns in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, drivers are celebrating. At many stations, residents noted that the reduction feels like a genuine helping hand, especially for delivery partners and gig workers whose earnings often suffer when fuel prices skyrocket. For these daily wage earners, even a small drop in the price at the pump makes a noticeable difference in their take-home pay.

Pump operators are also happy, noting that the new rates are encouraging more customers to return to their stations. Many stations reported steady traffic as drivers rushed to fill up at the lower rates.

While global markets remain unpredictable, this decision provides much-needed breathing room for the common person, easing the pressure on daily household budgets and making travel just a little bit more affordable for everyone across the country.

Political rivals unite for Akhilesh Yadav's birthday

NEW DELHI

Politics took a backseat as leaders from across the ideological spectrum set aside their differences to wish Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav a happy 53rd birthday.

From the Congress leadership to the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, top figures reached out to send warm personal greetings to the former Chief Minister.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge expressed his well-wishes on media, emphasizing a shared commitment to social justice and the protection of the Constitution.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also shared a warm note, referencing the "PDA" movement and wishing the SP leader a healthy and happy life ahead.

The sentiment was echoed by Akhilesh Yadav's political rivals within the Uttar Pradesh government. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offered his heartfelt prayers to Lord Shri Ram for the leader's long life and good health. Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya extended his greetings, invoking blessings from multiple deities for the SP president's well-being. Even BSP chief Mayawati joined the chorus, sending her best wishes to Akhilesh and his family.

These messages were met with grand celebrations at the Samajwadi Party headquarters in Lucknow. Party workers and supporters gathered in high spirits, cutting cakes and organizing special prayers for their leader.

Across various districts in Uttar Pradesh, fans expressed their support, hoping for a long and impactful career for the leader.

The day served as a rare moment of unity in the typically intense world of Indian politics.

CM Adhikari highlights healthcare challenges on Doctors' Day

KOLKATA

On the occasion of National Doctors' Day, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari launched a sharp critique of the state's former administration.

Speaking at Bidhannagar Hospital, Adhikari accused the previous Mamata Banerjee-led government of completely dismantling the state's healthcare system through years of neglect and political interference.

Reflecting on the legacy of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, whose birthday marks the national celebration, the Chief Minister compared the state's current administrative challenges to the visionary work of past leaders.

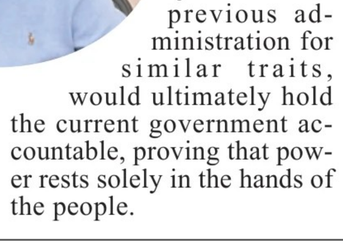
He claimed that the previous regime's influence left a path of destruction in every department, with healthcare suffering the most. Adhikari expressed deep concern over a culture of nepotism and favoritism that he believes crippled medical services, forcing many residents to seek treatment in other states.

"Why should our patients have to travel elsewhere for basic care when our people possess world-class talent?" the Chief Minister asked, urging for a system free from political meddling.

Family traditions mark army leadership change

NEW DELHI

A touching display of tradition and family bonds marked a major transition in India's military leadership. General Dhiraj Seth officially took charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff.



In a moving gesture shortly after his ceremonial Guard of Honour, he walked over to his family and respectfully saluted his father, Lieutenant General K.M. Seth (retired). He also sought his mother's blessings by touching her feet, a scene that deeply resonated with those in attendance.

The pride felt by the family was mutual. As the new Army Chief approached, his brother, Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth, returned the salute, creating a rare and memorable image of service members honoring both duty and family.

Speaking to the media shortly after assuming his new role, General Seth described the appointment as both a humbling responsibility and a great honor. He expressed his firm commitment to the philosophy of "Nation First." Looking toward the future, he outlined his vision for the force using the acronym "VIJAY." He emphasized the need for a modern, technology-enabled Army capable of fighting across multiple domains.

General Seth also paid tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country and assured citizens that the Army remains fully prepared to protect India's borders.

Kerala's PSC evaluation errors ignite political storm

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A serious evaluation failure at the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) has triggered a massive political row, shaking the faith of thousands of job seekers.

The controversy centers on a 2023 recruitment exam for high-level State Planning Board positions, which offer substantial monthly salaries.

Doubts arose after unsuccessful candidates suspected scoring discrepancies. While the PSC initially denied requests for answer scripts, a push from the State Information Commission finally forced disclosure. The results were shocking - ten descriptive answers had not been graded for any of the 228 candidates. This oversight potentially ruined the career prospects of many who relied on the fairness of the recruitment process.

Sports Minister O.J. Jenish, who is also the Youth Congress president, slammed the PSC, demanding a high-level, impartial probe rather than a simple internal inquiry. He expressed fears that the agency may have suffered from political interference over the last decade.

REDDY-BJP CLASH INTENSIFIES

BJP leaders slam Revanth Reddy over mockery

HYDERABAD

Tensions are rising in Telangana after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sparked a heated political row by mocking BJP national leader Nitin Nabin.

During a farmers' meeting in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister dismissed Nabin's recent claims about the BJP's future in the state, mockingly suggesting he did not even know the leader's full name. He further dared the party, stating his supporters were ready to "crush" any opposition trying to replicate their success in other states.

These comments have drawn sharp condemnation from top BJP leaders, who labeled the Chief Minister's tone as "arrogant." Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy hit back on social media, warning that such pride often precedes a political downfall. He criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver on development promises, accusing them of masking their governance failures with personal attacks and verbal abuse.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, also joined the fray, telling the Chief Minister that mistaking arrogance for strength is a common trap for those in power. He boldly claimed that the BJP has defeated much stronger opponents and is ready for the electoral challenge ahead. Meanwhile, state BJP president N Ramchander Rao remarked that such dismissive behavior is typical of the Congress party's history. He predicted that the voters of Telangana, who recently rejected the previous administration for similar traits, would ultimately hold the current government accountable, proving that power rests solely in the hands of the people.

Patra terms Reddy's remarks 'objectionable'

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra termed Reddy's remarks "objectionable and condemnable", and said they also reflect the Telangana CM's "arrogance" and the "culture of the Congress". Reddy's remarks also show how the Congress and leaders are committed to the "servitude of a single family",

QUICK READ

Vance calls Vatican's immigration stance troubling

Washington

U.S. Vice President JD Vance has publicly criticized the Vatican's position on immigration, labeling it "troubling." This disagreement follows ongoing friction between the Trump administration and Pope Leo XIV, the first American pope. Pope Leo has frequently condemned the White House's strict deportation policies, calling them inhumane. According to reports, Vance, who is Catholic, urged church leaders to consider the negative impacts of mass migration. While the administration claims its hardline approach is necessary for national security, the Pope continues to challenge their policies, also criticizing U.S. involvement in recent global conflicts.

France sets dates for 2027 presidential election

Paris

The French government has officially confirmed the dates for the upcoming 2027 presidential election. Government spokesperson Maud Bregeon announced that the first round of voting will take place on April 18, 2027, with a decisive runoff scheduled for May 2, 2027. The election will determine the successor to President Emmanuel Macron, who is ineligible to run for a third consecutive term. As the country prepares for a fragmented race, polls currently show the far-right National Rally in a leading position, fueling expectations of a contest dominated by political extremes.

Police arrest 900 during South Africa protests

Johannesburg

South African police arrested more than 900 people following nationwide anti-migrant demonstrations. The protests, organized by groups like "March and March," targeted undocumented foreigners after a self-imposed "deadline" for them to leave the country. While authorities deployed thousands of officers to maintain order, incidents of vandalism and intimidation occurred in several cities. President Cyril Ramaphosa had earlier condemned the vigilante rhetoric, emphasizing that the right to protest does not permit violence. Officials remain on high alert as tensions over unemployment and immigration policy persist.

Afghan air strikes target Pak border bases

Kabul

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence launched precision airstrikes against alleged ISIS-linked targets inside Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Officials claim these sites served as coordination hubs for sabotage and recent attacks on Afghan civilians. The ministry reported "heavy casualties" among militants, asserting that no civilians were harmed during the operation. This military action follows recent Pakistani airstrikes in eastern Afghanistan that reportedly killed dozens of civilians, sparking sharp diplomatic protests from Kabul. As tensions reach a boiling point, Afghanistan has vowed to continue targeting any locations that threaten its national security and regional stability.

NEPAL COURT QUESTIONS CHINESE AIRCRAFT DEAL

Nepal's SS has demanded an explanation over a controversial, decade-old Chinese aircraft deal causing massive financial losses

KATHMANDU

Nepal's government is under intense legal pressure regarding a controversial decade-old deal to purchase six Chinese aircraft.

The nation's Supreme Court has issued a formal show-cause notice, demanding an explanation for a procurement process that has left the state-owned Nepal Airlines Corporation struggling with massive financial losses.

Between 2014 and 2018, Nepal acquired four Y12E planes and two MA60 turboprops using a mix of Chinese grants and loans totaling over 6 billion rupees. However, the investment quickly soured.

Five of these planes have been grounded at Tribhuvan International Airport since 2020, gathering dust and depreciating in value, while a sixth aircraft was abandoned as scrap following a 2020 runway accident.

Experts and officials cite high fuel consumption, expensive spare parts, and poor performance for the grounding, which has turned these assets into a heavy financial burden. Public-interest activist Bhesh Raj Luintel filed a petition on June 25, alleging deep irregularities in the original decision-making process. The Supreme Court has now granted this case legal priority, ordering the government and anti-corruption bodies to explain why a thorough investigation has not yet been launched.

Petitioner Luintel is demanding a transparent, time-bound probe into all officials and consultants involved. Despite previous attempts to lease the idle fleet, no bids were received. With the public demanding accountability for the lost billions, the court's intervention marks a critical turning point in determining who will ultimately answer for this ill-fated aviation project.

S. Korea reviews critical wartime command transfer

South Korea's Defence Ministry held a high-level review to expedite the wartime operational control transfer from the US before President Lee's term ends in 2030

SEOUL

South Korea's Defence Ministry has held a high-level review to accelerate the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States. Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back presided over the meeting, emphasizing the government's commitment to finalizing the transition before the end of President Lee Jae Myung's term in 2030.

The primary focus of the discussion was the verification of "Full Operational Capability" (FOC), the second stage of a three-part assessment process.

While Seoul is eager to expedite this timeline, there remains a noted gap between South Korean ambitions and the US requirement for all specific conditions to be met first. To bridge this, officials are working to establish a clear roadmap before the annual Security Consultative Meeting scheduled for October.

A significant portion of the briefing addressed military structural reforms. The South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) is actively transitioning special operations and other components into standing, permanent units. This shift ensures that American and South Korean troops can jointly manage operational plans and large-scale drills year-round, rather than only during crises.

Minister Ahn expressed confidence that the necessary military and policy foundations, backed by strong public support, are ready for the transfer. The ministry is now focusing on ensuring the integrity of a South Korea-led joint defense posture for the future. With this review, Seoul aims to demonstrate its readiness to reclaim wartime control, a historic goal that would fundamentally reshape the longstanding security alliance between the two nations.

Indian Navy ships complete successful Thai mission

SATTAHIP

Three Indian Naval ships, INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti, and INS Kavaratti, have officially concluded their diplomatic visit to Sattahip, Thailand. The Eastern Fleet vessels received a warm, respectful farewell from the Royal Thai Navy, marking the end of a highly productive mission aimed at strengthening regional maritime ties.

Led by Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, the Indian fleet spent several days in Thailand engaging in activities designed to foster friendship and professional cooperation. Beyond tactical operations, the crews participated in shared yoga sessions and friendly sports matches, including a spirited volleyball game. These interactions were intended to build personal camaraderie and mutual understanding between the two maritime forces.

To cap off the visit, the Indian fleet conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) at sea alongside the Royal Thai Navy ship, HTMS Chao Phraya. This joint training exercise allowed both navies to practice working together effectively, ensuring they can better manage regional security challenges side-by-side in the future.

This deployment is part of India's ongoing "Act East" policy and the broader MAHASAGAR initiative. By focusing on the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026, the visit reaffirms India's commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific.

The successful collaboration highlights the deep bonds between the two nations, setting a positive tone for future military partnerships. As the ships sail away, they leave behind a stronger foundation for maritime security, proving that teamwork is the best way to keep our shared waters safe and open for everyone.

Doc strike halts services at Quetta hospitals

QUETTA

Patients in Quetta are facing a medical crisis as young doctors have officially suspended all emergency and routine services at public hospitals, including the Civil Hospital.

This drastic move follows a heated standoff between the Young Doctors Association (YDA) and local authorities, which erupted after police prevented doctors from holding a sit-in near the city's high-security Red Zone.

The medical community is protesting the brutal acid attack on a female doctor, Mah Noor Nasir, inside a hospital earlier this month. While doctors attempted to march peacefully to demand better protection and accountability, police blocked their path, leading to accusations of manhandling and a complete breakdown in communication between the two sides. YDA leadership, led by Dr. Bahar Shah, has announced a total boycott of services, stating they can no longer operate under current conditions. They claim the state is failing to protect its citizens, citing a broader pattern of negligence regarding violence against healthcare workers and a lack of justice for previous tragedies. The situation has sparked widespread alarm among local residents, as critically ill patients are now being turned away from government facilities.

Lahore tuition center roof collapse kills 14 children

ISLAMABAD

A devastating tragedy struck Lahore when the roof of a private tuition center in the Kahna area collapsed, resulting in the heartbreaking deaths of 14 children. Local officials confirmed that the building caved in while students were inside, trapping around 20 people beneath the heavy debris.

Emergency response teams rushed to the site to conduct rescue operations. While 14 young students were pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital, others were pulled from the rubble with severe injuries. Reports state that a teacher and eight children were rushed to Lahore General Hospital, with five of those children remaining in critical condition.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) of Pakistan has voiced outrage, labeling the disaster a result of gross negligence. The council argued that authorities consistently fail to inspect construction quality in residential areas, allowing substandard buildings to operate as schools and academies. In a formal statement, the HRC demanded an immediate, transparent investigation to hold those responsible for the poor safety standards accountable.

This tragedy follows a grim pattern across the province, with two other recent wall and roof collapses causing multiple fatalities in nearby districts. As grieving families demand justice, the HRC has urged the government to provide urgent medical and financial support to the victims. More importantly, they are calling for strict new regulations to ensure that every educational environment is safe, preventing such a preventable loss of young lives from ever happening again.

Turkey jails hundreds ahead of NATO Summit

ANKARA

As leaders from NATO's 32 member states prepare to gather in Ankara from July 7–8, the alliance remains conspicuously silent regarding Turkey's domestic political climate.

The upcoming summit, which marks President Donald Trump's first visit to Turkey since taking office, is expected to focus entirely on security and defense, deliberately sidelining concerns over Turkey's democratic decline.

Diplomatic sources confirm that leaders have no plans to address the ongoing legal crackdown on the Republican People's Party (CHP). This campaign has seen hundreds of opposition officials jailed and the imprisonment of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's primary political rival. Furthermore, Turkish authorities have denied media access to numerous independent journalists while detaining over 200 people ahead of the summit.

Western policy has undergone a marked pivot since 2021, shifting from vocal advocacy for human rights toward a strictly transactional relationship. Allies now view Turkey, possessor of NATO's second-largest military and a major drone exporter, as an indispensable bulwark against Russian influence on the alliance's southeast flank.

Critics, including former U.S. Ambassador David Satterfield, warn that this silence emboldens authoritarianism and ignores NATO's core principles of democracy. However, the alliance appears determined to maintain unity, with NATO Chief Mark Rutte signaling that tens of billions of dollars in new defense deals will be finalized. For now, the West has prioritized regional strategic interests, effectively setting aside democratic concerns to ensure Ankara's continued cooperation in European defense.

Trump debuts new Qatari-gifted Air ForceOne

MEDORA

President Donald Trump travels to North Dakota to dedicate the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, using the event to align his presidency with the legacy of the iconic Republican leader. The visit serves as the high-profile debut of a refurbished Boeing 747, a gift from Qatar, which will now operate as the new Air Force One.

Featuring a distinct red, white, dark blue, and gold design personally selected by the president, the luxury aircraft has sparked intense debate. Critics have raised questions regarding the rapid pace of its renovation and the precedent of accepting such a significant gift from a foreign nation. Despite these concerns, the administration maintains the plane meets all necessary security and operational standards for presidential travel.

The dedication ceremony for the 96,000-square-foot facility, located in the rugged North Dakota Badlands, marks a key moment in the president's "semiquincentennial" celebrations. As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its independence, Trump is using a series of patriotic events, including upcoming visits to Mount Rushmore and a planned July 4th celebration in Washington to emphasize his vision for American greatness.

Facing a political landscape marked by economic anxiety and the ongoing conflict involving Iran, the president is leveraging the Roosevelt connection to rally his base. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum highlighted the parallels, noting that both leaders shared an unwavering conviction in America's future.

JUNE HEATWAVES KILL OVER 1K IN SPAIN

MADRID

Spain is mourning a devastating start to the summer after health officials confirmed over 1,000 excess deaths attributed to extreme heat throughout June. Data from the Ministry of Health's monitoring system reveals that this June was the second-hottest on record, trailing only last year's historic temperatures.

The country endured a brutal five-day heatwave where thermometers climbed above 40 degrees Celsius. At the peak of this extreme weather on June 23, nearly 36 million people over 70% of the entire Spanish population, faced significant health risks. According to the state weather agency, AEMET, average temperatures across the nation sat 3.2 degrees higher than normal for this time of year.

The statistics highlight a disturbing trend: of the 12 heatwaves recorded in June since 1975, half have occurred within the last decade. Furthermore, every one of the 13 hottest Junes since records began in 1961 has happened in the 21st century. AEMET spokesperson Ruben Del Campo noted that heatwaves are now appearing earlier in the summer and with much greater frequency and persistence than in the past.

The record-breaking month saw hundreds of local temperature milestones shattered, with the northern regions particularly struggling against the intense and prolonged heat. As climate patterns continue to shift, this tragic death toll serves as a stark reminder of the escalating dangers posed by rising global temperatures, prompting urgent calls for increased public awareness and adaptation measures to protect vulnerable citizens from future heatwaves.

SAVING WATER BODY

Myanmar revives controversial 3.6 billion dollar dam

MYITKYINA

Myanmar's government is preparing to revive the highly controversial $3.6 billion Myitsone hydropower project, with plans to complete the massive undertaking within the next eight years.

The decision follows recent high-level talks in China, signaling a major shift in policy for the military-backed administration led by President Min Aung Hlaing.

The project, which was originally suspended in 2011 due to intense public outcry over environmental risks and loss of ancestral lands, is once again a central focus for the state.

Officials claim the dam is essential to address Myanmar's severe electricity shortages, suggesting it could provide over half of the country's 10-gigawatt power needs. However, due to inflation and delays, experts estimate the updated project could cost upwards of $11.5 billion more than triple its original 2009 budget.

While the government argues that new Chinese technology can mitigate seismic and environmental risks, the decision has drawn sharp condemnation from civil society. Over 49 advocacy groups recently issued a joint statement demanding the project's permanent cancellation, warning that flooding an area the size of Singapore will destroy lives and property.

Local leadership in Kachin State has begun hosting meetings to build public support, though the region remains scarred by ongoing civil conflict. With the government positioning the dam as a "historic achievement," the move highlights the deepening influence of Beijing in Myanmar's energy sector. As construction preparations begin, the project remains a flashpoint for deep-seated tensions over environmental safety and national sovereignty.

Two killed during Mexico City's massive World Cup victory celebrations

MEXICO CITY

At least two people died during massive celebrations in Mexico City after Mexico national football team secured a historic victory over Ecuador national football team to advance to the Round of 16 at the FIFA World Cup.

According to the city's health ministry, a 19-year-old woman and a 44-year-old man died of asphyxiation amid the huge crowds that flooded the streets following Mexico's triumph. Authorities have not confirmed reports carried by local media regarding a possible third fatality.

The celebrations erupted after Mexico defeated Ecuador to register its first World Cup knockout-stage victory since 1986, sparking scenes of jubilation across the capital and other parts of the country. The victory also ensured the co-host nation's place in the last 16 of the tournament.

City government estimates indicated that more than one million supporters gathered across Mexico City, with the largest concentration assembling around the iconic Angel of Independence monument, a traditional venue for national celebrations.

As fans waved flags, sang patriotic songs and celebrated late into the night, emergency services and security personnel struggled to manage the enormous crowds. The crush of people in some areas reportedly led to the fatal incidents.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths and are expected to review crowd management measures implemented during the celebrations. Officials have urged the public to remain cautious while attending large public gatherings as festivities continue during Mexico's World Cup campaign.

Despite the tragic loss of life, the national team's victory marked a significant milestone for Mexican football. The win ended a 40-year wait for a World Cup knockout-stage triumph, reviving hopes of a deep run in the tournament and prompting emotional celebrations among supporters across the country. Government officials expressed condolences to the families of the victims while acknowledging the overwhelming public enthusiasm generated by the team's success. Emergency responders remained deployed at key gathering points throughout the city to assist revellers and maintain public safety.

The incident cast a sombre shadow over what was otherwise a historic night for Mexican football, highlighting the challenges of managing celebrations involving hundreds of thousands of passionate supporters.

Fatal crowd crush mars nationwide celebrations after Mexico's historic World Cup knockout victory celebrations.

Ecuador's Hincapié shown red under FIFA's new mouth-covering rule

MEXICO CITY

Piero Hincapié became the second player at the FIFA World Cup to be sent off under the governing body's new disciplinary rule prohibiting players from covering their mouths during confrontational exchanges with opponents.

The Ecuador defender received a straight red card in the 95th minute of his side's 2-0 defeat to Mexico national football team in the Round of 32, bringing an abrupt end to his tournament.

The dismissal followed a heated exchange between Hincapié and Mexico forward Santiago Giménez. Match officials determined that the Ecuadorian had breached FIFA's newly introduced regulation by covering his mouth while speaking during the confrontation.

Defender becomes tournament's second dismissal under FIFA's strict new disciplinary regulation during confrontation.

FIFA implemented the rule ahead of the tournament as part of efforts to improve transparency on the field and discourage players from concealing abusive or inappropriate comments directed at opponents, match officials or other participants.

Under the revised disciplinary guidelines, any player found deliberately covering their mouth during a confrontational exchange can face immediate dismissal if officials determine the action violates the regulation. Hincapié is only the second player to be punished under the rule at this World Cup.

Ronaldo, Modric chase one final World Cup dream as time catches up

ATLANTA

Football icons Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modrić are preparing for what could be their final FIFA World Cup appearances as Portugal and Croatia meet in a blockbuster Round of 32 clash that will also create a unique piece of tournament history.

The encounter marks the first time two outfield players aged over 40 will face each other in a World Cup match. Before the 2026 tournament, only Roger Milla had played as an outfield player at a World Cup after turning 40.

Former Real Madrid teammates, Ronaldo, 41, and Modrić, 40, won four UEFA Champions League titles together and have spent years defying expectations with their longevity. However, both veterans have also faced increasing scrutiny over whether they remain assets or have become burdens for their national teams.

Ronaldo made history earlier in the tournament by becoming the first player to score in six different World Cups after netting twice against Uzbekistan. Yet Portugal's inconsistent group-stage campaign, which included failure to defeat the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia, has raised fresh questions over the team's dependence on its captain.

"It's already 23 years I've been a professional, and whenever things don't go well it's 'Cristiano is finished, he's old,'" Ronaldo said during the tournament.

Football legends prepare for another historic duel despite advancing age and mounting expectations together.

Despite criticism, Portugal coach Roberto Martínez has continued to back the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, insisting the veteran remains physically and mentally capable of playing full matches.

Croatia have experienced a similar debate surrounding Modrić. The midfield maestro endured a difficult opening defeat to England but responded by helping his country defeat Panama and Ghana, while also reaching the milestone of 200 international appearances.

Modrić's influence has been central to Croatia's remarkable rise over the past decade, leading the nation to the 2018 World Cup final and the semi-finals four years later.

Haaland's late heroics send Norway into historic World Cup last 16

ARLINGTON

Erling Haaland rescued Norway with a dramatic late winner as the Scandinavian side defeated Ivory Coast national football team 2-1 to register their first-ever FIFA World Cup knockout-stage victory and book a place in the Round of 16.

With the match seemingly destined for extra time, Haaland struck four minutes from the end to keep Norway's World Cup dream alive and set up a high-profile clash against Brazil national football team on Sunday.

The towering striker, who had scored four goals in Norway's opening two group-stage matches before being rested for the third fixture, endured a frustrating evening for much of the contest as Ivory Coast's defence successfully limited his opportunities.

Norway had taken an early lead through Antonio Nusa, but the team's inability to provide quality service to Haaland left the prolific forward isolated for long periods.

Seeking greater involvement, Haaland repeatedly dropped deeper into midfield, though his effectiveness was reduced when operating with his back to goal rather than facing the opposition's defence.

Ivory Coast drew level in the 74th minute through Amad Diallo, shifting momentum and raising the prospect of extra time.

Norway coach Ståle Solbakken introduced fresh attacking options in Andreas Schjelderup and Oscar Bobb, but it was midfielder Patrick Berg who produced the decisive moment.

Collecting a pass from Bobb, Berg calmly squared the ball across the penalty area, allowing Haaland to bundle home from close range despite initially miscuing his finish.

"I was dead tired, so I thought, 'I can't cope with extra time, so we have to score,'" Haaland said after the match.At the final whistle, the jubilant striker embraced Berg and kissed him on the forehead in appreciation for the match-winning assist before celebrating with Norway's travelling supporters while wearing a Viking helmet.

A relieved Solbakken admitted his side had survived a tense encounter.

"If I can survive that, I can survive anything," the coach said.

Although Norway struggled for long periods, Haaland once again proved the difference, delivering when it mattered most and ensuring the nation's historic World Cup campaign continues into a mouth-watering showdown with Brazil.

NASA promises to send football to moon if USA wins FIFA World Cup

WASHINGTON

NASA has thrown its support behind the United States men's football team at the FIFA World Cup, with agency administrator Jared Isaacman pledging to send a football to the Moon if the hosts go on to win the tournament.

Speaking during an event outlining NASA's long-term plans to establish a permanent base on the Moon, Isaacman issued a light-hearted challenge to the American squad.

"That's the challenge, okay, so Team USA, get the job done," he said, adding that a World Cup triumph would earn the team a place in space history. The United States is jointly hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup alongside Mexico and Canada. As part of the celebrations, NASA has already sent an official FIFA football to the International Space Station. However, Isaacman said a World Cup victory by the United States would inspire the agency to go one step further by transporting a football to the lunar surface.

The proposal would surpass one of the most memorable sporting moments in space exploration history. During the Apollo 14 mission in 1971, astronaut Alan Shepard famously hit golf balls on the Moon after secretly carrying a modified golf club aboard the spacecraft.

Achutaditya-Arjun crash out in Canada Open men's doubles first round

MARKHAM

India's men's doubles pair of Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Pochana Arjun suffered an early exit from the Canada Open badminton tournament after losing in straight games to the fifth-seeded Canadian combination in the opening round of the BWF Super 300 event.

The Indian duo went down 9-21, 7-21 to home favourites Kevin Lee and Ty Alexander Lindeman in a one-sided contest that lasted just 23 minutes.

The Canadians dominated proceedings from the outset, using their superior pace, attacking play and court coverage to keep the Indians under constant pressure. Achutaditya and Arjun struggled to build momentum, conceding long stretches of points as their opponents controlled the rallies with aggressive smashes and sharp net play.

The opening game saw the fifth seeds race into an early lead before comfortably closing it out 21-9. The second game followed a similar pattern, with Lee and Lindeman maintaining complete control to seal a convincing 21-7 victory and book their place in the second round.

The defeat marked a disappointing start for India's doubles campaign at the tournament, with Achutaditya and Arjun unable to challenge the experienced Canadian pair in front of the home crowd.

Mbappé inspires rampant France to dominant victory over Sweden at WC

EAST RUTHERFORD

Kylian Mbappé produced another breathtaking display as France stormed into the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 with a commanding 3-0 victory over Sweden national football team.

The scoreline barely reflected France's dominance as Didier Deschamps' side overwhelmed Sweden with relentless attacking football, creating enough chances to win by a much wider margin. Their reward is a last-16 meeting with Paraguay national football team.

Mbappé was the driving force behind the performance, scoring twice to take his World Cup finals tally to 18 goals in just 18 appearances. His latest brace also lifted his tournament total to six goals, further strengthening his status as one of the competition's standout performers.

France looked dangerous from the opening whistle, with Mbappé forcing an early save before having a goal ruled out for offside. Sweden struggled to contain the pace, movement and intricate passing of the French attack as temperatures soared in East Rutherford.

The first half also featured the now-familiar hydration break, which drew loud boos from supporters unhappy with the interruption. However, the brief pause did little to disrupt France's rhythm.

The breakthrough finally arrived just before halftime. Collecting a pass from Ousmane Dembélé, Mbappé skipped past defenders before driving a right-footed finish beyond goalkeeper Jacob Widell Zetterström. The goal sparked emotional celebrations as the French players ran to embrace coach Didier Deschamps, who had recently returned to the United States after attending his mother's funeral.

France maintained the pressure after the restart and doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when Bradley Barcola calmly lofted the ball over the advancing goalkeeper.

Mbappé sealed the victory 20 minutes later, finishing clinically after being released by Michael Olise. With six World Cup goals in the tournament already, Mbappé continues to rewrite records and spearhead France's title challenge. Deschamps substituted his captain in the closing stages to a standing ovation as the 86,000-plus crowd applauded another masterclass.

France's blend of pace, precision and attacking flair now makes them one of the favourites to lift the trophy, while Paraguay face the daunting task of halting their momentum in the knockout stage.

Sitharaman begins France visit to boost economic ties

Sitharaman begins France visit to strengthen India-France economic ties, investment cooperation, and technology collaboration initiatives

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has begun an official visit to France aimed at strengthening India–France economic relations, expanding investment opportunities, and enhancing cooperation in technology, innovation, and clean energy sectors.

During the visit, Sitharaman will co-chair the India–France Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in Aix-en-Provence along with France's Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Energy Sovereignty Roland Lescure. The dialogue is expected to explore new areas of bilateral cooperation and deepen existing financial and economic partnerships between the two countries.

The Finance Minister will also engage with global chief executive officers and participate in a roundtable discussion with leading business leaders. These interactions are intended to highlight India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, ongoing structural reforms, and expanding investment landscape.

She is scheduled to speak at a panel discussion titled "How to Promote the Growth of a New Middle Class" at Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, one of Europe's prominent forums for global economic dialogue. The event brings together policymakers, economists, central bankers, and industry leaders to discuss key global economic challenges and opportunities.

As part of her official itinerary, Sitharaman will visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project at Cadarache. ITER is one of the world's largest international scientific collaborations on nuclear fusion energy, involving more than 30 partner countries, including India and France.

She will also visit Campus Cyber, France's national hub for cybersecurity innovation and research. The visit is expected to promote knowledge sharing in cyber resilience, digital security, and innovation in the technology ecosystem.

In addition, the Finance Minister will meet Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, to discuss ways to enhance regional cooperation in investment, clean energy, technology, and economic development.

The visit underscores India's ongoing efforts to deepen strategic and economic ties with France and strengthen global partnerships across emerging sectors of growth.

QUICK READ

India retail leasing grows 17.6% in tight supply market

New Delhi

India's retail real estate sector recorded strong growth in Q2 2026, with gross leasing reaching 2.4 million sq ft across top eight cities, marking a 17.6 per cent year-on-year rise, according to a Cushman & Wakefield report. Leasing also rose 23.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter, driven by sustained occupier demand despite limited new supply. Total H1 2026 leasing stood at 4.35 million sq ft. Malls accounted for 51.3 per cent of leasing, while main streets contributed 48.7 per cent. Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad led activity, together accounting for 64 per cent of total leasing volume across the country.

Jivial Industries lists twenty percent lower on debut

Mumbai

Jivial Industries shares made a weak debut on the BSE SME platform on Wednesday, listing at Rs 156.80, a 20 per cent discount to the IPO price of Rs 196. The stock came under further selling pressure after listing, falling nearly 4 per cent from its opening level and at one point slipping over 22 per cent below the issue price. The IPO, open from June 23 to 25, was subscribed 93 per cent. The Rs 31.99 crore issue included a fresh issue and offer-for-sale. The aluminium railing manufacturer serves construction and design sectors across India and exports to Oman.

Zostel dispute may force 7% stake transfer

Mumbai

Prism, the parent company of OYO, has flagged its ongoing legal dispute with Zostel in its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed ahead of its proposed IPO. The company warned that an adverse ruling in the case could materially impact its business, reputation, and financial condition. It added that a final unfavorable decision may require issuance or transfer of up to 7 per cent of its shareholding, or payment of an equivalent monetary value, to Zostel and other parties. The dispute arises from a failed acquisition deal, with arbitration and court proceedings still pending.

NPCI, HSBC enable real-time forex settlement for seamless, transparent international UPI payments across global markets

NPCI and HSBC enable real-time FX for global UPI payments

NEW DELHI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced a strategic partnership with HSBC India to introduce real-time foreign exchange (FX) settlement for cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, aiming to enhance transparency and efficiency in international digital payments.

Under the collaboration, HSBC India will provide live FX rates through direct application programming interface (API) integration. This will allow users to view the exact amount payable in Indian rupees at the time of transaction when making payments abroad, improving clarity and reducing uncertainty around currency conversion.

The initiative is expected to significantly improve the user experience for Indian travellers using UPI internationally. By enabling instant FX conversion and settlement, the system will ensure that merchants and financial institutions abroad receive payments in their local currencies without delays, making transactions smoother and more efficient.

NPCI stated that the partnership is a key step in strengthening the global acceptance of India's digital payments infrastructure. The organisation highlighted that the move will enhance operational efficiency in cross-border payments while supporting the expansion of UPI's international footprint.

An NPCI spokesperson noted that the collaboration with HSBC represents an important advancement in delivering real-time forex conversion and transparent pricing for users. The spokesperson added that it will improve convenience for customers while reinforcing trust in digital payment systems.

The API-based framework will leverage HSBC India's global banking network and payments infrastructure to enable secure, round-the-clock international transactions. This is expected to make UPI-based payments faster, more reliable, and more widely accepted across global markets.

At present, UPI services are operational in nine countries, including Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, France, Sri Lanka, Qatar, and Cambodia. These integrations allow Indian users to make QR-code-based payments directly from their domestic bank accounts in rupees while travelling abroad.

NPCI, which operates under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association, has been central to building India's digital payments ecosystem. Its portfolio includes key platforms such as UPI, RuPay, IMPS, NACH, NETC, AePS, and eRUPI, which collectively support the country's growing cashless economy.

The latest partnership marks another step toward expanding the global usability of India's payment systems while improving efficiency and transparency in international financial transactions.

EV REGISTRATIONS RISE

India passenger EV registrations jump 90 percent in Q1

NEW DELHI

India's electric passenger vehicle (EV) registrations witnessed a sharp rise of nearly 90 per cent in the April–June quarter of FY27, reflecting strong consumer shift towards cleaner mobility options, according to Vahan registration data.

Total registrations stood at 82,737 units in Q1 FY27, compared to 43,710 units in the same period last year. The surge highlights growing acceptance of electric vehicles across urban and semi-urban markets, supported by improving infrastructure and relatively stable running costs.

Monthly data shows steady momentum throughout the quarter. Registrations rose from 24,963 units in April to 27,320 units in May, and further climbed to 30,454 units in June, indicating sustained demand growth.

Industry executives attributed the strong performance to improved ownership economics of EVs, especially amid elevated fuel prices during geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Lower operating costs compared to petrol and diesel vehicles have further encouraged adoption among price-sensitive consumers.

Among automakers, Tata Motors emerged as the market leader, registering 32,283 electric passenger vehicles during the quarter, marking a 104 per cent increase from 15,794 units a year earlier. The company also reported strong overall passenger vehicle sales, supported by demand across both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric models.

Mahindra & Mahindra also recorded strong growth, nearly doubling its EV registrations to 20,112 units from 10,144 units in the same period last year, reflecting its expanding presence in the electric SUV segment.

However, Hyundai Motor India saw a decline in EV registrations, which fell to 1,386 units from 2,142 units a year earlier, indicating varying performance across manufacturers.

Experts noted that rising fuel prices, along with periodic increases in vehicle prices announced by manufacturers, have played a role in shaping consumer buying decisions. Despite cost pressures, EV demand has continued to strengthen due to long-term savings and environmental awareness.

Overall, the sharp rise in EV registrations underscores India's accelerating transition towards electric mobility, supported by policy push, expanding charging infrastructure, and increasing consumer confidence in EV technology.

India data centre market seen reaching $6.8 billion by FY30

NEW DELHI

India's data centre market is projected to grow fourfold to $6.8 billion by FY30, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and rising digital consumption, according to a KPMG in India report.

The report estimates that India's share of the global data centre market will nearly double from 2–3 per cent in FY26 to around 5 per cent by FY30, supported by strong demand, large-scale investments, and favourable government policies.

India's installed data centre capacity has already more than tripled since FY19 to about 1.9 gigawatts (GW) in FY26, with an additional 4.5 GW expected over the next five years. The expansion is being fuelled by hyperscale cloud providers, global digital platforms, and AI-focused companies, replacing the earlier dominance of enterprise and telecom demand.

AI and high-performance computing are expected to become the primary growth drivers, accounting for nearly 55 per cent of total capacity by FY30. This shift is prompting investments in AI-ready infrastructure with advanced cooling systems, higher power density, and GPU-intensive computing capabilities.

The report highlights India's competitive advantages, including lower construction costs, affordable power, and a large pool of IT and AI professionals. These factors position the country as an attractive destination for global digital infrastructure investments.

Rapid digital adoption is also accelerating demand, with more than 950 million internet users, over 660 million smartphone users, and rising data consumption across sectors.

The implementation of data localisation regulations, including the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, is expected to further boost domestic demand for data centres.

According to the report, over $120 billion has already been committed by hyperscale cloud companies, global operators, and Indian firms, reflecting strong investor confidence in the sector.

Industry experts believe the convergence of AI, capital investment, and supportive policy frameworks is placing India at the forefront of global digital infrastructure development, making the country an increasingly important hub for next-generation data centre capacity.

India's data centre market is projected to reach $6.8 billion by FY30, driven by AI, cloud adoption, digital growth, and strong investments

1. India data centre market to quadruple
2. AI and cloud drive rapid expansion
3. Capacity expected to reach 6.4GW
4. Government policies boost infrastructure investments
5. India emerges global digital infrastructure hub

India manufacturing PMI stays strong at 54.2 in June

NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector continued to expand in June, with the HSBC Flash India Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) standing at 54.2, indicating sustained growth momentum despite a slight moderation from the previous month.

The PMI reading, released on Wednesday, remained well above the 50-point threshold that separates expansion from contraction, signalling that overall operating conditions in the sector are still improving. However, the data also pointed to a slowdown in the pace of growth compared to earlier months.

According to the survey, growth in new orders and production softened during June. While many manufacturers continued to report healthy demand, others noted weaker client interest and increased competition in both domestic and international markets. Export orders also grew, but at a slower rate than before, reflecting a mild cooling in global demand conditions.

Experts observed that the moderation follows a period of stronger growth earlier in the year. HSBC Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari said the June figures suggest that manufacturing activity remains resilient, even as momentum eases slightly. She added that easing geopolitical disruptions have contributed to softer inflationary pressures in both input and output costs.

The PMI data also showed that price pressures continued to decline, with both input cost inflation and output price inflation easing during the month.

This indicates improved cost stability for manufacturers, which could support profit margins in the near term.

Purchasing activity among firms also slowed, leading to a more gradual accumulation of inventories. At the same time, finished goods stocks declined as companies adjusted production levels to align more closely with current demand trends.

Despite the moderation in growth, employment in the manufacturing sector continued to rise in June, although at a slower pace compared to previous months. This suggests that companies remain cautiously optimistic about demand prospects.

Overall, the data highlights a manufacturing sector that is still expanding steadily, supported by resilient domestic demand and moderate export performance. While growth momentum has eased slightly, India's manufacturing landscape continues to show stability amid evolving global economic conditions.

1. Manufacturing PMI remains strong at 54.2
2. Growth slows but still expanding sector
3. New orders and production growth moderate
4. Export demand rises at slower pace
5. Inflationary pressures continue to ease further

MAHINDRA REPORTS STRONG 37 PERCENT JUMP IN SALES GROWTH

NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported a strong performance in June 2026, posting a 37 per cent year-on-year rise in overall auto sales at 1,06,207 units, including exports, driven by robust demand across utility vehicles and commercial segments.

The company's utility vehicle (UV) domestic sales stood at 60,393 units, marking a 28 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. Total UV sales, including exports, reached 61,504 units during the month, reflecting sustained customer demand for the company's SUV portfolio.

According to the company, its light commercial vehicle (LCV) segment also contributed significantly to growth. LCV sales totalled 39,896 units, with strong performance across sub-categories. LCVs under 2 tonnes recorded 3,508 units, registering a 36 per cent rise, while the 2–3.5 tonne category stood at 22,568 units, up 35 per cent year-on-year.

Three-wheelers emerged as another strong growth driver, with sales jumping 63 per cent to 13,820 units compared to 8,454 units in the corresponding period last year. The sharp increase highlights improving demand in the last-mile mobility and small cargo transport segments.

Exports also showed exceptional momentum, rising 125 per cent year-on-year to 5,918 vehicles, reflecting growing international demand for Mahindra's product range.

In the farm equipment segment, Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Business reported domestic tractor sales of 58,177 units in June, a 12 per cent increase over the previous year. Total tractor sales, including exports, stood at 59,935 units. The company exported 1,758 tractors during the month.

Company executives attributed the steady growth in the farm segment to supportive government measures and sustained rural demand conditions. They noted that while emerging weather patterns such as El Niño could pose challenges to the agricultural sector, ongoing policy support and fertilizer subsidies are expected to help cushion potential impacts on the upcoming Kharif season.

Overall, the strong performance across automotive and farm equipment divisions reflects continued demand resilience, with Mahindra & Mahindra maintaining growth momentum in both domestic and international markets.

KCA revokes three- year ban on former India pacer Sreesanth

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) on Wednesday revoked the three-year ban imposed on former India fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth after accepting his unconditional apology for remarks made against the association.

The decision was taken at a special general body meeting of the KCA, which resolved to withdraw the disciplinary action imposed on the former international cricketer last year.

According to an official statement issued by the association, the ban was lifted after Sreesanth submitted an unconditional apology expressing regret over his comments directed at the KCA.

The association said Sreesanth acknowledged that his statements had caused concern and conveyed his willingness to move forward in a constructive manner. Taking note of his apology, the general body decided to revoke the suspension with immediate effect.

The KCA had imposed the three-year ban ahead of the previous edition of the Kerala Cricket League (KCL), alleging that Sreesanth had made defamatory remarks against the association.

The disciplinary action effectively barred him from participating in KCA-related cricketing activities and events.

The lifting of the ban clears the way for Sreesanth to once again engage with cricket activities conducted under the KCA's jurisdiction, although the association has not specified whether he will haveany immediate role in the Kerala Cricket League or other domestic compet tions. Sreesanth, who represented India in all three formats and was part of the country's victorious squads in the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, has remained a prominent figure in Indian cricket despite a career marked by controversy.

The latest development signals an end to the standoff between the former pacer and the Kerala Cricket Association.

While the KCA has not disclosed further details of the discussions leading to the decision, it said the apology and expression of regret formed the basis for revoking the ban.The move is expected to help restore cordial relations between the former India speedster and the state's cricket governing body after nearly a year of disciplinary action.

Kerala Cricket Association revokes Sreesanth's ban after accepting his unconditional apology and regret.

Iyer hints at cautious approach over Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's England debut

CHESTER-LE-STREET

India captain Shreyas Iyer has dropped a subtle hint that teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi may have to wait for his international debut, stressing the importance of backing the players who helped India win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup a few months ago.

Iyer avoided confirming whether the 15-year-old would feature in the playing XI, despite growing anticipation surrounding the youngster's debut.

Sooryavanshi has been one of the most talked-about names since being included in India's squads for the tours of Ireland and England. However, accommodating the promising left-hander would likely require breaking up the successful opening partnership of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, both of whom played key roles in India's recent T20 success.

"All the players in the team have performed well; it's not that only one individual has performed well," Iyer told reporters.

"We have to build opportunity and security so that each individual has confidence going forward into tournaments. The players who won the last World Cup know how to play T20 cricket, and they have continuously been the main pillars of this format. It is very important to back them," he added.

Iyer also reflected on India's disappointing series defeat to Ireland, the first-ever against the hosts, describing it as "depressing" rather than embarrassing.

"It wasn't embarrassing, but it was depressing because we didn't expect Ireland to play that well. They outplayed us in every department," he admitted.

The skipper credited Ireland for making better use of local conditions, saying India had fallen short in analysing the pitch and ground dimensions.

Despite the setback, Iyer believes the experience has helped the team prepare better for the England challenge.

"We learnt a lot from that series. This is a completely new chapter for us. A few of us have played in England before, we understand the conditions and the dimensions here, and we're looking forward to an intense and challenging series," he said.

India begin the T20I series against England on Wednesday, with all eyes on whether the highly-rated Sooryavanshi earns his long-awaited international debut or waits for another opportunity.

McCullum reveals failed bid to convince Stokes against international retirement

LONDON

England head coach Brendon McCullum has revealed that he made a last-ditch attempt to persuade Test captain Ben Stokes to reconsider his decision to retire from international cricket, but quickly realised the all-rounder had firmly made up his mind.

Stokes announced his retirement during the fourth day of England's third and final Test against New Zealand national cricket team at Trent Bridge, a decision that surprised fans and the cricketing fraternity. England eventually lost the match by 160 runs, conceding the three-match series 1-2.

McCullum said his initial reaction was to convince Stokes to continue, but it soon became clear that the England skipper had reached his decision after careful thought.

"When he confirmed to me that he was going to retire, first I tried to talk him down," McCullum said with a laugh. "It became pretty obvious that he had made his decision and he was at peace with it."

The New Zealander admitted feeling emotional after accepting Stokes' decision, reflecting on the close bond they had developed over the past four years.

"You've been on this journey together for four years and it's been a real thrill. I feel very privileged to have worked closely with Stokesy throughout that time and to consider him a good friend," McCullum said.

Describing Stokes as a "leader of men", McCullum praised his influence both on and off the field, saying his conviction and belief inspired confidence across the dressing room.

"In a game filled with variables and inconsistencies, Ben brought consistency through his belief in every situation. That gave everyone around him a real sense of calm," he said.

McCullum admits Stokes rejected pleas, remaining completely at peace with retirement decision throughout.

McCullum added that replacing a player and leader of Stokes' calibre would be a significant challenge, but insisted the England team would first celebrate his remarkable career before planning for the future.

He also said he wanted Stokes' retirement announcement to be made public early enough to allow supporters an opportunity to give him a fitting farewell, describing the all-rounder as a cricketer whose impact extended beyond the sport.

Looking ahead, McCullum expressed confidence in England's future, saying his commitment to the team remained unwavering and that the side would continue building its identity under a new leader.

Bengaluru's P. Abhay Surya wins four gold medals at Karnataka shooting championship

BENGALURU

Young Bengaluru marksman sweeps four golds, earning statewide recognition and widespread acclaim instantly.

Young Bengaluru shooter P. Abhay Surya, a Class 10 student of St. Joseph's School, produced a remarkable performance at the 14th Karnataka State Shooting Championship, winning four gold medals in the 10-metre Open Sight Rifle event organised by the Karnataka State Rifle Association.

Abhay dominated the competition by securing gold medals across four categories — Men's, Junior Men's, Youth, and Sub-Youth — underlining his exceptional talent and consistency against competitors from different age groups.His clean sweep at one of Karnataka's premier shooting competitions has earned him widespread appreciation from the sporting fraternity. The outstanding achievement also drew congratulations from Siddaramaiah, who commended the young shooter for bringing laurels to the state through his exceptional performance.

Winning across multiple categories is considered a rare feat in competitive shooting, as it demands sustained focus, precision and composure over successive rounds. Abhay's success reflects years of dedicated train ing and discipline, making him one of the most promising young shooting talents in Karnataka.

The 14th Karnataka State Shooting Championship brought together leading shooters from across the state to compete in various rifle and pistol disciplines. Strong performances at the event are regarded as an important mil estone for athletes aspiring to compete at the national level.

Abhay's four-gold haul has further strengthened his reputation as a rising star in Indian shooting. With his impressive showing at the state championship, the Bengaluru youngster is expected to bui ld on this success in future national competitions, carrying the hopes of Karnataka's shooting community and inspiring many aspiring marksmen to pursue excellence in the sport.

Serena's Wimbledon comeback ends in first- round singles defeat to Maya Joint

LONDON

Serena Williams's dream of a fairytale return to Wimbledon came to an end in the first round as the seven-time champion lost a gripping three-set contest to Australia's Maya Joint.

Playing her first Wimbledon singles match in four years, the 44-year-old American battled bravely before going down 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 in a contest lasting two hours and 22 minutes on Centre Court.

Williams' comeback had captured the imagination of tennis fans around the world, with many hoping the legendary champion could script another memorable chapter at the All England Club. However, despite flashes of the brilliance that made her one of the greatest players in the sport's history, she was unable to overcome the younger and inspired Australian.

The former world No. 1 became the second-oldest player to compete in the Wimbledon women's singles draw in the Open Era, behind only Martina Navratilova, who reached the second round at the age of 47 in 2004.

After dropping the opening set, Williams showed remarkable resilience in the second. She saved two match points before edging a tense tie-break to force a deciding set, drawing loud cheers from the Centre Court crowd.

The American looked poised for a stunning comeback after breaking early in the third set, but Joint responded impressively. The Australian regained control with aggressive baseline play and won the final five games to seal one of the biggest victories of her young career.

Although the singles campaign ended in disappointment, Williams' Wimbledon journey is not over. She is also competing in the women's doubles alongside her elder sister, Venus Williams, with the iconic siblings hoping to make an impact together once again on the grass courts where they have enjoyed immense success over the years.

While the defeat denied Serena a winning return in singles, her courageous performance demonstrated the fighting spirit that has defined her illustrious career. The Centre Court crowd responded with a standing ovation, acknowledging a champion whose legacy at Wimbledon remains unmatched by most of her contemporaries.

Hardik Pandya relocates to Bengaluru, makes BCCI COE permanent training base

NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has relocated to Bengaluru, making the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (COE) his permanent training base for the remainder of his playing career, becoming the first prominent centrally contracted Indian cricketer to take such a step.

The move marks a significant departure from the norm, as India's centrally contracted players usually visit the COE only for injury rehabilitation, fitness assessments or national training camps.

Hardik, who hails from Baroda in Gujarat, spent much of the last decade living in Mumbai, where he primarily trained at his Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians' facilities. However, the 32-year-old has now rented a residence on the outskirts of Bengaluru, close to the COE, to facilitate year-round access to world-class training and rehabilitation facilities.

According to a BCCI source, Hardik decided to relocate after finding the daily commute from his Mumbai residence increasingly difficult. The move is expected to help him better manage his workload, fitness and recovery while extending his international career.

"As a centrally contracted player, he has access to every facility at the COE, from injury management to skill development. He intends to make it his base whenever he is not on national, IPL or domestic duty," the source said.

Hardik chooses Bengaluru's Centre of Excellence as long-term training base for international cricket.

Currently recovering from a quadriceps injury that ruled him out of India's ongoing white-ball tour of the United Kingdom, Hardik has spent considerable time at the Bengaluru facility over the past six months as part of his rehabilitation programme.

The all-rounder is also understood to have appointed a personal physiotherapist and a strength and conditioning coach to complement the support available at the COE. Even during skill sessions, including batting practice against net bowlers arranged through the facility, Hardik reportedly bears the additional costs himself. His rehabilitation remains ongoing after a brief break for personal commitments, and he is expected to return to the COE shortly to continue his recovery.

It remains uncertain whether Hardik will be available for selection for India's upcoming three-match T20 International series against Zimbabwe. His participation will depend on successfully completing the BCCI's Return-to-Play protocols and being declared fully fit by the medical team before the squad is finalised.

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